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1977-78



Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Annual Report of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, for the year 1976-77 has already been published and released by Sri Veeramachaneni Venkatanayana, Hon'ble Minister of Archaeology and Museums on 26-3-79. The last Annual Report by the Department of Archaeology of the erstwhile Government of Hyderabad was published in 1940. Subsequently due to various reasons the Annual Reports could not be brought out. As such the report for the year 1976-77 will be the first of its kind after the formation of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

During the recent years the activities of the Department increased manifold. The contributions made by the Department have gained international recognition from renowned scholars and archaeologists in India and elsewhere. In fact, today the Department of Archaeology and Museums of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is probably the best organised one than any other state Department in India. The Department is forging ahead in all branches such as Explorations, Excavations, Epigraphy, Conservations, Museums and Publications, etc.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the biggest states in the country with much bigger archaeological potentialities. Scores of pre, proto and early historical sites have been discovered and some have been excavated in the recent years. With available limited resources the Department has been doing commendable work in the field of Archaeology. There are various problems for bringing out exhaustive reports on excavations and explorations. In order to redress the delinquency to some extent it has been decided to publish the results as exhaustively as possible through the Annual Reports.

After the construction of the Srisailam Hydro-electric project large chunks of land on either side of river Krishna and the doab in between the Tungabhadra and the Krishna rivers will be submerged. Surface explorations revealed many pre and proto-historic sites, which included neolithic-chalcolithic, megalithic, and early historical sites of the Satavahana and later periods. The entire resources and man power of the Department have been diverted to conduct excavations on a war-footing in the areas coming under submergence. As a result, some of the major excavations proposed to be undertaken by the Department such as at Dhulikatta, Kotilingala in Karimnagar district, some recently discovered Buddhist sites at Mangamaripeta, Madhuravada in Vizag district have to be postponed.

However, the Department is fully compensated by a wealth of antiquities recovered from the explorations and excavations of the submersible areas under the Srisailam project. Excavations have been conducted at Peddamarur, a megalithic site, Chagatoor a chalcolithic-cum-megalithic site; Uppalapadu another megalithic site; and Pragatoor an early medieval site besides the results of the excavations conducted at other places as at Gargeyapuram, Dongalasani, have been incorporated in this report.

In the field of epigraphy the department of Archaeology made good progress by copying more than 300 inscriptions from various districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Though the Annual Report is intended to publicise the departmental activities, various researchers from other institutions, including the Archaeological Survey of India, Universities and Colleges in Andhra Pradesh and amateur archaeologists who are making far reaching discoveries, have been, requested to send brief reports. The response is not quite encouraging. However we have received a few reports on the discoveries from some private individuals and college teachers which were incorporated in the 1976-77 volume. We again renew our appeal to various scholars to send even brief reports on archaeological discoveries for publication in the Annual Reports.

—Editor.

I. EXPLORATIONS

The Subordinate Officers of the department have conducted surveys in their respective jurisdictions and the results of the exploration are as detailed below.

1. Registering Officer, Anantapur : Sri G. Jawaharlal.

During the exploratory survey some beautifully carved temples, etc., have been noticed. They are briefly described below.

Bheemeswara Temple in Gadekal Village : The temple is situated in Gadekal (v) Urvakonda Taluk Anantapur District. This is famous for the Samadhi of Bheemakavi, who came from Vemulavada, reported by the local people, is said to be the 101st and last Samadhi of Bheemakavi in Gadekal (v). But the temple seems to have been constructed in the Vijayanagara period, for it exhibits Vijayanagara architectural features.

A well situated in the village Nittur (23/2) : This is in Tadpatri Taluk of Anantapur District and situated in the heart of the village with four entrances on four sides, each having 28 steps to descend. Inside this well are niches in the walls without any deities. By the side of the niches are carvings like Ganapathi pilasters, Linga with Nandi, flying scenes, Gajalakshmi panels, a number of erotic scenes, Mithunas, Sivas and Parvathi on Nandi and Narda in front. The carving of rows of elephants, found outside the well are very attractive. Relying on its architectural features we can date this well to the Vijayanagara period.

Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Pennahobilam : This temple consists of Mukhamantapa, Antarala, Garbhagriha. On the pillars in the Mukhamantapa are found some Vaishnava carvings. The temple exhibits Vijayanagara features like growth in number and size of hall of mantapas of various sizes, sub-shrines, towers which began to rise steeply in height. Further as per epigraphical evidence, the kings Sadashivraya and Ramaraja the great of Vijayanagara patronised the temple. The temple is mainly related to Vijayanagara period which is attested to by epigraphs.

One small Vinayaka image was donated to the Department by Sri Uttareddy of Munagalavaripetla village, Kadri Taluk, Anantapur District.

It is a small metal one measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " high and 2" wide. It has four hands holding usual weapons and it could be dated to the late Vijayanagara period.

Other collections include one Chandrasekhara idol from Judicial department, Tadpatri. It belongs to the Kevalamoorthy class and the figure stands upon a Padmapitha with four hands. One of the right hands is kept in the Abhaya pose and the other one carries mrga facing the figure of Siva.

On intimation from local people, we visited the ash-mounds at Budidhagaddapalli village and explored the entire area, and found three ash-mounds which are largely covered by a mantle of soil, le-

affected from the depredations of village diggers. Several antiquities have also been noticed on the top surface of the site. They lead us to suggest that they most likely belong to the Neolithic period. Some potsherds of our collection are truly handmade. By the scanning of other sherds, it infers that two main techniques were in use viz. the turn table and the dabber and anvil. These shreds are of various colours. Some of the vessels have flat bases.

Some edged ground tools, rubbers, querns were also collected. In our collection, there are two querns. One is concave quern. The second one is flat based with stand. The availability of countless pieces of tools, points, grinders reveals the existence of a ground and peaked stone industry. The discovery of these three large ash-mounds in the village Budihagaddapalli is considered to be unique as they shed welcome light on the Deccan Neolithic Culture.

2. Registering Officer, Karimnagar : Sri P. Ramachandramurthy, Assistant Director, Warangal in additional charge.

A historical site datable to 1st century A.D. has been found near Kotilingala, otherwise pronounced as Kotalingala, on the banks of river Godavari in the Peddapalli taluk of Karimnagar District. From surface coins issued by Simukha the first known king of Satavahana dynasty were collected. Encouraged by the collection the area was examined for locating habitational deposits. The Technical Assistant who conducted his survey noticed a few Brahmi inscriptions on stone slabs. The other finds include large sized bricks measuring 46 centimetres in length besides the Satavahana pottery.

The other associated finds with pottery are potin coins according to the version given by the villagers. The entire village stands on a mound around which there are a few mounds separated by each other within a radius of 1 km. towards east. On one of the mounds there exists a temple dedicated to Lord Siva. The temple is of late Chalukyan type having stout pillars and a high plinth.

In the mandapa one can come across the sculptures of Venugopala and Ganesh carved in black basalt and red sandstone. Scattered images can be spotted on the river banks and at one place is a beautiful specimen representing Kaliya-mardana.

The survey registered the existence of a microlithic culture along the bank and the tools primarily belong to non-geometrical variety. The nature of the culture is yet to be studied. The standing crops over the mounds did not allow to undertake a detailed survey to record the average height of each mound from the surrounding plains. As such the area is proposed for a systematic study before a major excavation on the site is launched.

At Bhainsa village in Mudhole Taluk (Adilabad Dist.) in course of survey was found an exquisitely carved stone sculpture, half buried, near the tank bund. A Saivaite temple having archaeological value has been suggested for according protection.

3. Registering Officer, Nellore : Sri J. Suryanarayana Raju

Surface explorations in this region yielded good results. At Kanigiri and Lingareddipalli, both in Prakasam District, Middle Stone Age sites were discovered. Near Dachur and Narasimhakonda, both situated in Nellore District, sites of Middle Stone Age came to light. The gravels of a nulla near

Venkatachalam satram in Nellore District yielded slate Achenlan as well as Middle stone age implements. Thus it has been proved time and again that the two districts are rich in stone age cultures.

4. Registering Officer, Tirupathi : Sri N. S. Ramachandra Murthy.

During the year under review this office has also taken up the survey of archaeological monuments and sites for examination. Out of a total of 63 villages surveyed and 65 monuments and 8 sites examined 4 monuments and 2 sites have been proposed for protection and excavation under Andhra Pradesh Act of 1960. They are as follows :

(i) *Veerabhattaraskravamy Temple* : It is situated on the right bank of river Mandavya in Rayachoti village, Rayachoti Taluk, Cuddapah District.

Here lies the temple of Veerabhadra and other sub-series of Devi, Subrahmanyam Swamy and Bhairava. On architectural features, it appears to belong to the late Chalukyan period i.e. 12th & century A.D. with additions like Kalyanamandapa, pillared verandahs and the towering gopura during the Vijayanagara period.

(ii) *Narasimhaswamy Temple* : Situated at a distance of 18 km. from Rayachoti on Rayachoti-Madanapalli Road in Jallavandlapalli village, Rayachoti Taluk of Cuddapah District.

Here lies the temple of Narasimhaswamy on the left bank of river Mandavya facing East. The sanctum-sanctorum has a seated image of Narasimhaswamy about 4 ft. high with his consort Lakshmi. It rises on a high adhishtana, comprising Upanajagathi Padma Kumuda-Gala moulding and broad eaves over which rise the wall containing 2 empty niches flanked by pilasters. The Vimana consists of Kuta series with erotic stucco figures and is of Nagar order. The temple has beautifully carved sculptures of the image of Ganga, Jamuna with scroll designs and huge Dwarapalakas on either side of the entrance tower. On architectural grounds the temple may be assigned to the Vijayanagara period having a bearing specimen of the Vijayanagara architecture.

(iii) *Siva Temple* : Situated in Vallur village of Cuddapah taluk and district. It is also known as Mabbudevalam. It consists of a garbhagriha and a closed mukhamandapa with pillars which number 12 with rectangular basis, square blocks, moulded octagonal shafts with carvings of miniature deities, kumuda palaka with tharanga corbels resembling the Kakatiyan pillar order. The lintel of the entrance doorway is richly carved with floral and foliage patterns and Gajalakshmi motifs with a makarathorana and a seated female deity in the centre. On the exterior the wall portion contains rich decorative carvings like the famous Pushpagiri temples, a typical Vijayanagara feature in style. The wall decorations consist of slender circular pilasters with a kumbha pañjara motif placed at regular intervals of distance dropping down to adhishtana portion as at Pushpagiri. The intervening space between pilasters and niches is occupied by sculptures like Nataraja with 8 arms, Siva as Lingodbhavamoorthy, Durga as Mahishamardani, Viswakarman, a lion rider and a row of Hamsas. Above the wall is the characteristic carvings of Vijayanagara temples with large gables.

On architectural grounds the temple shows close affinities to the Kakatiyan style, followed by Vijayanagara sculptural decoration.

(iv) *Mulasthaneswara Temple* : Situated in Pottapi village of Rajampet taluk of Cuddapah District in the lower reaches of river Bahuda, about 18 km. from Nandalur on Tangutur-Cuddapah Road.

Here lies the important temple of Mulaisthaneswara bearing close resemblance to the Kapotheswara-swamy Temple at Chezerla in Guntur District. The main feature of the temple is the apsidal Garbhagriha, surmounted by gajaprisht a sikhara with a Chaithyakudya or arch in the front. In front of the Garbhagriha there is a closed Mukhamandapa, built of brick, which evidently shows it is a later construction. The sanctum-sanctorum is built of stone and brick with its adhishtana portion lying buried under earth. While the wall portion is built of dressed block of stone the super structure i.e., the Gajaprishta sikhara is built of brick and coated with lime plaster all over. The joints between the wall and the sikhara have a circular moulding. The Chaityakudu in the front has interesting stucco figures mutilated and surmounted by makarathorana motif with taranga or moulded petals with a band decorated with floral designs below.

On examination the temple is found to be a unique specimen of Early temple architecture in Rayalaseema region bearing another apsidal temple with a chaithyakudu motif in front, thus attesting indirect evidence to the influence of Buddhist tradition in temple construction. The temple in view of its close similarity to the Chezerla temple appears to be either contemporaneous with or slightly later than Chezerla temple of 5th century A.D.

(i) *Peddachepalli Temple* : Situated in Peddachepalli village, about 8 km. from Kamalapuram Taluk, Cuddapah District. Here lies an ancient mound extending over an area of 40 acres to the west of the village. The mound has come to the notice of the Department when it was dug out by the villagers for pati earth. A study of dugup portion revealed that the mound rises to a height of 7 m. from the ground level. The stratigraphy of the mound at dugup portions revealed loose sandy bunkers followed by ash-grey coloured hard soil embedded with brick bats, broken pots, etc. An important feature of the mound is the existence of circular ring wells. Exploration of the area has also yielded different potteries such as dull red ware, polished black and red ware, polished red ware and pieces of sprinklers. The bricks are found to measure $30 \times 40 \times 7.5$ cm. Further it is also learnt from the villagers that the site yielded a good number of terracotta figurines seals and some coins. Considering the nature of the mound and precious antiquities it yielded, it appears that the site could be a habitation one with its antiquities going back to the Satavahana period, if not earlier.

(ii) *Mahankaligadda Temple* : Situated on the right bank of the river Papanghri, near the village Masanuru at a distance of 20 km. from Cuddapah town in Cuddapah District.

It is an ancient mound bearing close similarity to the Peddachappalli as its eastern plank.

Beside the above it has also been noticed some other important temples like the apsidal temple with a curvilinear sikhara of Agastheswaraswamy, Chennakesava and Peddachappalamma temples which may be assigned to the late Chalukyan period of 12-13th century A.D.

5. Registering Officer, Vizag : Sri N. Mukunda Rao:

Trial excavations were conducted in Kalingapatnam where there is a mound called Jagatimetta, datable to 2nd-3rd century A.D. Rouletted pottery pieces were collected on the slopes of this mound. Two brick walls, probably of spoked stupa without connection to the main circle, were found. But no conclusion is arrived at as to the existence of a stupa because the entire site is in a disturbed condition.

6. Assistant Director, Vijayawada : Sri N. R. V. Prasad.

Near the outskirts of Nelakondapally in Khammam District a mound locally called as Bairagi-gadda, was excavated for patiearth by the villagers and it yielded nine mutilated limestone sculptures of Buddha in abhaya-mudra. The surrounding area has been tapped to examine for further finds. In all 8 trenches measuring 3×3 metres were laid on the mound. The digging brought to light four irregular brickwalls plastered with lime. From habitational levels have come three copper coins, issued by Vishnukundin kings. In the brick structures datable to early period were found lead coins bearing elephant symbol which may be ascribed to Ikshvaku period. Further exploration at the site is contemplated. The Buddha idols have been shifted to Vijayawada Museum for safe-custody.

Finds from Lebarthi village (Warangal Dist.) : The Sarpanch of the Lebarthi Panchayat has reported about the mutilated sculptures available in Lebarthi village and suggested to the department to undertake an excavation for the recovery of buried sculptures.

(a) Mutilated head of Surya (?) with a chipped nose and jaw, intrinsically carved having a jewelled crown, long ear-lobes fitted with circular ear-rings. A wheel with radiating spokes can be seen close to the head having perforations on right side only. Long garlands of beads are seen hanging from the top of the crown to the ear-rings. Another peculiar feature in respect of this icon is the treatment of eye balls, which slightly protrude beyond the lashes, which has been probably done to bring serenity to the face.

- (b) Torso of a female deity, in a seated posture. Profusely ornamented.
- (c) From Wardhannapet were recovered two slightly mutilated heads of male and female deities.

II. EXCAVATIONS

Excavations were conducted at the following sites during the year under report :

(a) Major Excavations :

1. Uppalapadu, Alampur Taluk, Mahaboobnagar District
2. Chagatur, -do-
3. Pragatur, -do-
4. Yopaladevipadu (Peddamarur), -do-

(b) Minor Excavations

1. Gargeyapuram, Kurnool District
2. Small mound in Dongalasani Village, Siddhout Taluk, Cuddapah District

(a) Major Excavations

1. Uppalapadu : conduted by Sri J. Suryanarayana Raju, Registering Officer, Nellore.

The megalithic burials at Uppalapadu, Alampur Taluk, Mahaboobnagar District, coming with the submersible area of Srisailam Project were taken up for excavation during 1977-78 field-season.

The megalithic burials are clustered in three groups termed as Site I, Site II and Site III in the area flanked on one side by the river Tungabhadra and on the other by the river Krishna both of which meet at a distance of about 10 km. down stream at Kudavallisangam. The terrain is characterised by red alluvial soils and sedimentary rocks like conglomerates, shales and sandstone. The megalithic man used blocks of conglomerates as circle-stones and sheets of shale as cist-slabs. Sometimes sheets of shale of smaller magnitude formed circles to hold cairn-packing, or filling of low burial mound, in position, which seems to be a peculiar local feature.

Sites I and II contain burials, both pit-circles and cists in separate clusters. In Site I pit-burials are in a cluster and cists group themselves adjoining the pit-burials. In Site II the pit-burials are in a group on the western slopes of a hillock adjoined by cists which are followed again by a group of pit burials. Site III contains mostly cists though pit-burials are not known. The pits and cists follow a definite pattern of distribution which possibly indicate different traditions of the Iron Age community in their burial practices.

The cists, in general, exhibit almost square plan within a circle of dressed stones, whereas the burial pits are invariably rectangular in plan with longer axis running east-west except in the case of burials IV and V of Site II where the orientation of the pit changes to north-south direction.

Altogether seven pit-burials in Site I and four pit-burials on Site II were excavated. Two cist burials in Site I, one cist in Site II and another cist on Site III were excavated. One circle which after excavation proved to be a platform is a unique evidence.

Site I

Burial - I : This is a pit-circle with a rectangular, east-west oriented burial pit containing redware, blackware, black and redware, iron implements and ten skeletal remains.

Burial - II : This is almost a square cist with a port-hole and passage on the southern side, the whole encircled by a dressed stone walling. The weight of the cist filling which contains fragments of shale slabs and rubble has crushed the burial pottery into minute pieces out of which no forms can be made out. The cist has no cap-stone, probably missing.

Burial - III : This is again a cist with a port-hole in its western orthostat, but with no passage leading to the port-hole. There is a partition slab which also contains a port-hole. The cist is encircled by dressed stones. The funeral remains are very poor in that, only ten potsherds and ten skeletal fragments were exposed.

Burial - IV : This is a cairn-circle having a rectangular pit at the bottom oriented east-west. The funeral offerings consists of redware, blackware, one iron rod and ten fragments of skeletal remains.

Burial - V : A cairn-circle with a burial-pit cut into natural rock in a rectangular shape oriented east-west. The pit consists of redware, balckware, black and redware, iron implements and ten pieces of skeletal remains.

Burial - VI : This is a very big pit-burial with an outer diameter of about 14 m. The circle is made up of shale which keep the low burial mound in position. There is in the centre, a smaller stone circle with 1.70 m. diameter indicating the position of the pit inside. The pit is rectangular with east-west orientation. It measures 4.22 m. \times 2.80 m. The funeral material includes redware, blackware, black and redware and iron implements. About 22 iron implements were exposed in this burial.

Burial - VII : This is a pit-circle with cap-stone. The pit is cut rectangularly into shale bed in east-west orientation. The pit materials include redware, blackware, black-and-redware, iron implements, a skull and long bones.

Burial - VIII : This is another pit-circle with cap-stone. Here also the pit is cut rectangularly into shale bed in east-west orientation. The burial furniture includes redware, blackware, black-and-redware and iron implements.

Burial - IX : This is a very small pit-circle. The pit is rectangular and oriented in east-west direction. The pit material consists of pottery of the usual three wares, iron implements and a few skeletal remains.

Site II

Burial - I : It is a pit-circle with a rectangular burial-pit cut into soft bed-rock (sandstone) in east-west orientation. The burial material consists of redware, blackware, iron implements, conches and fragments of skeletal remains.

Burial - II: This is a platform formed of distinctively small circle-stones the inside space of which is with slabs of shale. No burial pit is encountered below the slab pavement. It should a platform utilised either for excarnation or for performing some burial ceremony.

Burial - III: This is a pit-circle with a rectangular pit cut into bed-rock in east-west orientation. The burial material includes redware, blackware, black-and-redware and iron implements.

Burial - IV: This is a cairn-circle with a slab-lined passage. The pit is bell shaped. At the bottom pit is rectangular with north-south orientation. The skeletal remains include skulls and bones. There are three coffin-shaped formations and ash within which the skeletal remains are arranged. In one of the formations streaks of charcoal are found along with ash. It is tentatively surmised that the ash and the streaks of charcoal are the result of the disintegration of what originally might be wooden coffins.

Burial - V: This is a pit-circle with a rectangular pit with north-south orientation. The burial material includes redware, blackware, black-and-redware, skull fragments and long bones.

Burial - VI: This is a cist-burial almost square in plan encircled by dressed stones. The burial material is crushed to pieces due to the over weight of the cist-filling. No shapes of pottery can be made out.

Site III

The only burial excavated in this site is a partitioned cist having a port-hole, and a passage leading to the port-hole. The passage was covered by dressed stones which form a part of the circle. There is no stone. The pit-filling consists of shale slabs at the upper levels and at the lower levels it consists of fragments of shale and rubble. The burial material includes pieces of pottery and ten skeletal remains. The burial material is found in fragments occurring at different levels of the filling. Actually there is no evidence of burial material.

The oblong cists exposed on Sites I and III are very poor in cultural contents. The reason may be their proximity to surface. On the whole, the cists including the oblong-cists present very little evidence.

Except iron implements which are profuse in number, there are no other noteworthy antiquities. On the whole, redware is the most dominant fabric followed by blackware. Black-and-redware was sparingly used probably as a special ceremonial ware.

2 (a) Chagatur : conducted by Sri N. R. V. Prasad, Assistant Director, Vijayawada.

Excavations at Chagatur in Alampur Taluk of Mahaboobnagar District were conducted during the field-season of 1977-78 which brought to light valuable evidences establishing chronological sequence from the Paleolithic period to the late Medieval period.

After a careful survey of the area between the rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra a mound in front of Chagatur situated in S. No. 1/1 to 1/8 was selected and a detailed excavation was conducted on a grid pattern.

During the seasonal field excavations at Chagatur for the year 1977-78 two main divisions running parallel cutting the mound from North to South was exposed upto the natural soil. A longitudinal section was also taken in East-West direction in order to understand the stratigraphical sequence of the mound. Though four layers are uniformly noticed in the strata only 3 distinct cultural periods and structural activity are established.

Period III corresponding to layer I is composed of grey soil associated with greyware pottery, bangle pieces, iron objects, beads, etc. Due to agricultural operations the plough marks are clear and the strata is disturbed. One Muslim coin issued by Humayun Shah Bahmani was also recovered in this level. Structural activity of this period continued below the foundations of a late Vijayanagar temple in front of Chagatur.

Layer II is compact grey soil and silt containing sand particles and devoid of any significant cultural association. Since this thin layer is uniformly noticed in the entire mound the effect of inundation of abandonment of the site for a considerable time is postulated.

Period II corresponding to layer III is composed of loose grey soil associated with massive shalestone walled structures and an array of interesting antiquities like beads and bangles of shell and terracotta, iron objects like sickles, nails, dull redware conical bowls and redware spouts of sprinkler jar types. A significant feature of this period is its pit activity. From the pits cutting from this layer burnt clay, loose ashy deposit iron slags and dumps of pottery suggesting the activity of village craftsman and strata of burnt charcoal are noticed. Habitation during this period is extensive and prolific. Most of the walled structures of this period are noticed superimposed on the earlier structural activity. Floor levels in different trenches paved with shale slabs and smearings of animal dung have been discerned.

Period-I corresponding to layer IV is composed of yellowish soil associated by planned walled structures constructed of sized shale stone running almost the entire length and breadth of the mound, starting from the natural basal rock. Excellent pottery types in red and red polished-ware, black and redware, deluxe-ware and interesting antiquities like terracotta figurines both male and female handmade and double mounded varegated beads of terracotta, shell, stone, bangles of glass and shell, stone discs or spindle whorls, gold and silver ornaments (very small) and an ivory toilet rod have been exposed in this phase. Different floor levels are noticed in this period. Shalestone flooring and dung smearings were used simultaneously. This is the earliest cultural phase of this mound. The strata so far exposed suggested the extension of this phase towards the North and walled structures are noticed running towards the same direction. Only half of this mound could be tapped thoroughly during the present field-season. The remaining half of the mound is required to be exposed to understand the plan of the building activity and bring to light many more interesting antiquities. Below this phase in a pebble bed a few pebble choppers were brought to light. According to Prof. Sankalia, the rivers Tungabhadra and Krishna during the period of aggradation might have left the weight of the pebble on the natural shale sheet which forms the basal rock of the region. The pebbly layer is connected to the virgin surface which incidentally is still preserving the reverine pebble in view of its proximity to the rivers. From this surface a number of middle and late paleolithic tools were collected.

About half a km. west of Chagatur early historical site, a cluster of dolmenoid cists with and without passage chambers is noticed on the left bank of Tungabhadra facing Satanikota, another important mound of the Satavahana period.

The massive porthole-cists with and without passage chambers are structurally unique in the valley. They include cists with single and double (a) circles, (b) portholes, (c) compartments, (d) graffiti marks. From this extensive burial complex one impressive dolmenoid cist with a frontal passage chamber situated towards the extreme north was systematically exposed on the quadrant method. The cist is swastik on plan with four orthostats intact. The orthostats are supported from outside by a platform constructed with shale slabs and enclosed by a beautiful dressed drystone circle with a diameter of 11 metres. The cist is divided into two compartments namely the eastern and the western by a partition slab of the size of the orthostats. At a depth of nearly 3 metres both these two compartments are further sub-divided by another partition slab. In the northern half of both these compartments bench-like structures supported by vertical stone stands are exposed. Nearly half of this compartment not covered by the benches is utilised for observing the funeral ceremonies. A skull and fraction of skeletal remains and megalithic redware bowls placed in an ashy pit are exposed at the bottom of the cist just above the base slab. In the southern half of the above compartments one black polished sprinkler and a few redware deep bowls are exposed. In the passage chamber also a few skeletal remains and fragments of megalithic redware pottery are noticed. The cist and the passage chambers are generally provided with port holes, but the southern orthostat of the cist has two portholes one at an upper level and another at the lower corresponding to the height of the bench. This is a rare feature of this cist. Further in all the four quadrants fraction of skeletal remains and typical megalithic redware pottery and four huge vertical stones or memorial columns are noticed on all the cardinal points. The arrangement appears to be intentional with a ceremonial purpose.

A very significant feature of this burial is that the cist is enclosed by a rectangular wall (Plate I) provided with an entrance on the south which is rare in the structural activity of the megalithic culture in South India.

The structural details of the above cist are unique and represents adaptation and improvement over the megalithic cist types of Kerala, Tamilnadu and North Karnataka. Further the graffiti marks namely a trident across the circle and endless cord designs and rows of deep grooves noticed over the orthostats are very interesting and require to be studied in greater detail. The endless cord design is very similar to those represented at Mohenjodaro and Taxila which were considered as authenticated royal insignia. A solitary occurrence of this endless cord design over this cist burial alone go in support of the imposing architectural style of this cist to consider that it was intended for the disposal of a king. Hence the grave goods also are expected to be unique in the valley.

The most important find from this cist burial is a memorial stone with busing depicting the worship of foot prints exposed at the level of the stone bench. Worship of foot prints and the arrangement of the cist with all the structural details namely hemispherical mound, a box-like cist, a dressed dry stone circle, stone columns on the cardinal points are very clear here in support of the theory that the idea of a Buddhist stupa originated from the megalithic burial type. Further the newly discovered panel from the burial and yet another significant feature that the concept of symbolic worship of the early Buddhist period (Hinayana) is also derived from the established megalithic culture. The cist was carefully scooped out upto the base slab. In no burial complete articulation came across. But according to Dr. Gururaja Rao the burial was actually conducted with all the necessary grave goods in a pit scooped out in natural rock below the base slab of the cist (Plate II). His opinion is fully corroborated by the information at Chagatur and in the burial excavation at Pedamarur in the same Taluk of Mahaboobnagar District, where a number of skeletons were exposed below the base slab of the cist. Hence it is proposed

to remove the base slab in order to expose the skeleton and the grave goods associated with the royal burial which is architecturally unique in the valley.

2 (b). Pydigutta :

A hemispherical stone structure looking like a dump of shale slabs to a height of 15 feet in an area of about 1.5 acres is locally known as Pydigutta. It is located over an ancient mound at the centre between Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers.

In course of surface exploration a number of neolithic celts, black and redware and red polished ware pottery were collected around this mound. In order to understand the stratigraphical sequence a trial trench measuring 4×4 m. was taken towards the northern side of the mound and exposed to a depth of 2.10 metres *i.e.* upto the level of the shale basal rock. A careful study of the strata presented eight layers by their distinct composition of soil classified into three cultural periods.

Period III (Early Historical and Megalithic) consisted of layer I and II A which yielded black and redware and red polished ware pottery, terracotta beads and glass bangles and iron pieces datable to the early historical period.

Period II consisted of layers II B and III in which neolithic brownish greywares, hearth, painted black-on-redware, microlithic blades of jasper and quartz, steatite beads and one copper piece were recovered. Layer IV a thin deposit of red soil appears to have been used as a soling material during the above period. Period III consisted of layers five to eight representing neolithic-chalcolithic culture. In this period black burnished and burnished greyware pottery typical of the neolithic period and microlithic blades of jasper and quartz, etc. and neolithic rubber stones, sling balls, handmade hearths and a number of steatite beads have been recovered.

The presence of a Stupa-like hemispherical structure over an extensive ancient mound which opened up in a trial dig, a sequence of neolithic-chalcolithic culture with an overlap of iron age is unique in the valley and further excavation is bound to receive laurels for the Department.

3. Pragatur : conducted by SRI P. RAMACHANDRAMURTHY, Assistant Director, Warangal.

To salvage the temple remains in the Pragatur Fort, that are likely to come under submergence of the Srisailam Hydro-Electric Project, the Department undertook a large scale excavation in Pragatur Fort situated on the southern bank of river Krishna in the Alampur taluq of Mahaboobnagar District.

In the fort area are two ancient temples viz. (1) Sri Vardarajaswamy temple and (2) Sri Rama-lingeswaraswamy temple a Saivite shrine. The operations have been confined to both the temples and the areas have been thoroughly tapped for antiquities.

Trenches around Sri Vardarajaswamy temple :

The vast area around the temple has been cleared of the debris and trenches as many as 50, measuring 6×6 m., have been sunk. The sedimentary rock which is the natural bed was touched in all the trenches at a depth of nearly 3.50 metres. No encouraging finds have come to light. The excavations carried out near the northern end of the fort wall revealed two lengthy stone-walls running

parallel to each other towards an outlet provided in the massive fortification. The walls which are of recent origin were constructed in mudplaster and the stones were placed side by side to a thickness of 50 cm. The walls after running to a considerable length of 8 metres have terminated near an outlet, at the southern end which was intended to drain off accumulated rain-water. The construction goes to 17th century.

Only one gold ear-ring has come out from an ashy layer in trench B2 sunk near temple complex and as it is of recent origin it is dated to late period i.e. 17th century.

The Vardarajaswamy temple has undergone extensive renovation during Vijayanagar period and as a result it had lost its Chalukyan features. On the first floor one can see an arched verandah in an incomplete shape. The external fortification wall almost touched its basement while running towards east. The entire basement has been cleared of its filling to expose the plinth.

The trenches laid in front of Sri Vardarajaswamy temple have yielded two headless images of male and female while removing the intervening baulks. Though doubtful to identify the treatment given points out that they unmistakably belong to Saivite sect. The operations conducted around the opposite ruined mandapa did not recover any ancient objects but antiquities of very late period to 17th century (Muslim period) have come from surface on account of its close proximity to the residential complex and the finds are mostly iron implements, such as knives, rods and kitchen ware. The collection includes few porcelain sherds also. The excavation recorded a few neolithic finds in addition to a lone sherd of russet coated ware having criss-cross designs, traditionally called as Andhraware. No neolithic habitation is noticed but the artifacts are sling balls and a polished axe. The deposit is identified as pati earth which seems to have come from a different place, at the time of temple construction. The soil was sterile throughout. These are purely accidental and as such no importance need be attached to.

Debris Clearance near Ramalingeswaraswamy temple :

The temple is a Chalukyan edifice having stout squarish pillars resting on a high plinth. The successive renovations have changed the form of the temple and a few additional structures that have been added have closed the openings that once existed between each shrine. Hence the temple which looked like a trikuta i.e. triple shrined one has now become totally a closed shrine. The sikhara is a stunted one having a low stepped pyramid devoid of decoration. On one of the squarish pillars that support the roof near the entrance is an inscription datable to 10th century A.D. The entire area including temple has been cleared of rank vegetation and in the process the following sculptures have been recovered.

- (a) *Mahishasuramardhani* : Exquisitely carved in red sandstone, the four handed deity is seen lifting the animal demon by holding its tail with the left hand in an easy way while piercing its head with the pointed end of the trisula. Iconographically the representation is important for in early Chalukyan sculptures only, we come across the *asura* in his *mahisha* form. The posture of the Goddess as usual is in tribhanga and has no breast band, the feature which dates the idol back to 8th century A.D. In the upper right and left hands the deity has a sword and a circular shield.
- (b) *Kumaraswamy with his consort Valli* : Carved in shalestone of grey (in two pieces) in low relief it depicts Kumaraswamy riding on a peacock. Very late period and featureless.

- (c) Naga slabs in granite holding a sword and shield in both hands.
- (d) *Siva as Bhikshatanamurthi* : In nude holding damaru and pasa in upper right hand left arms and sword and kapala in the lower right hand left. Poor carving datable to 10th century.

4. Yapaladevipadu (Peddamarrur): conducted by Dr. V. V. Krishnasastri,
assisted by Sri G. Krishnam Raju, Technical Assistant

The habitation site about 10 hectares in extent at Peddamarrur, Mahaboobnagar District lies on the south-west of the village and roughly about half a kilometre away. In view of its proximity to the river the mound was much eroded and undulating, marked by a net-work of walls of shale slabs of recent origin. The walls of the houses either during the ancient period or in the present were constructed with locally quarried shale slabs from the extensive tracks of rocky plains.

A considerable part of the mound was cut-off by the villagers to be used as manure. As noted above, the existing mound is marked by deep depressions and rain gullies due to erosion by rain and also due to flood waters of river Krishna which is hardly 200 m. away towards west of the mound. A broad retaining wall of shale was raised in the north-south direction against inundation and also possibly for arresting erosion.

The lowest stratum of the mound consists of shale bed rock capped by old alluvium which was overlain with a thick deposit of recent alluvium. The total thickness of alluvium either old or recent is not more than 3 m. at any spot.

Habitation :

Excavations were mainly concentrated over the south-western segment of the mound. Along the flood plains where the soil cover is adequate the land is quite fertile. The entire area including the habitation site is now under active cultivation. A variety of crops which included jowar, ground-nut, ragi, etc. are grown. During recent years tobacco was also raised extensively. Constant cultivation year after year disturbed the historical site to a depth of 15 to 20 cm., thereby throwing-open ancient potteries such as tan ware, black and redware and black polished wares, etc., which could easily be picked from the surface.

Occasional flooding is evident by the occurrence of riverine pebbles of small size as the river could not carry heavier load over to such a height. In course of washings by the flood water much of the cultural material from the top courses had either been displaced or swept down the river.

Chronology :

But for a solitary potin Satavahana Coin found at the top most level, the excavation at the Peddamarrur historical site had not yielded any other datable object. For arriving at an absolute time-table for the site we have solely to depend upon pottery types, beads, and other objects recovered from the excavation. No currency was attested to, either the punch-marked or any other variety from the earlier levels. As the excavation has been concluded very recently it was not possible to get any radio-active carbon determinations.

Altogether six habitational levels were recorded of which the last two were marked by structural constructions with shale slab. The above said coin may help us to date the late levels to the Satavahana period. From the earliest habitational levels upto the end of fourth no permanent structures were evidenced but for postholes and paved floors. Yet, there was profuse occurrence of pottery from all the levels.

A comparative study between the objects recovered from the historical site and the megalithic burials both about 3 km. apart, may help us to decide the nature of habitation. Some of the pottery types from the habitation site are exactly similar to those found in the megalithic burials. The Black polished pottery, which had almost disappeared but for a few ear spools in the Satavahana period was ubiquitous both in the early habitation levels as well in the megalithic burials. The all blackware and black-redware dishes, some with typical ledged and out-turned lips, the coarse red parabolical (breast-shaped) lids were common. The barrel-shaped hexagonal quartz crystal beads were found both in the habitation and burials.

The cornelian etched and white painted beads with circles and dots in the middle and the barrel-shaped beads with wavy patterns in between concentric lines had almost disappeared in the Satavahana levels. The other speciality of the earlier levels was the occurrence of beads made of shell fossils.

In the light of the above discussion it may now be possible to arrive at a reasonable time scale of habitation site.

Period-I represented by the four habitational levels from the beginning of the earliest to the end of fourth, was identical with the megalithic cist burials.

Period-II overlapping the fourth upto the end of sixth was coeval with Satavahana.

Excavations :

The excavation initially consisted of four squares of 6 m. later extended to another 8 squares. The maximum depth reached in the trenches wherever it was possible, not impeded by the presence of structures belonging to later period, was about 3 m.

The top layer, with a mixture of recently decayed vegetable matter and ancient cultural relics was not more than 10 m. anywhere. Below the humus was a layer of loose darkish clay marked by many undulations.

The second layer caps another layer of loose whitish ashy clay deposit with thickness varying from 15 to 20 cm. The soil from the third layer to the end of sixth is dark brown in complexion and closer in composition due to excessive retention of water. A deep pit cutting from layer-III and reaching to a depth of 1½ m. consisted of sherds of redware, shale stone, rounded rubble, etc. At the bottom is a thin deposit of blackish burnt clay mixed up with ash.

A wall about 22.8 m. long, 0.85 m. broad and an existing height of 40 cm. was noticed in the layer. Not much variation was noticed between layers V and VI which consisted of finer clay mixed up with ash, sand and stone. Layer-VII again is loose but less ashy and more compact. An intervening patch between VI and VII composed of coarse sand and finer clay was noticed in some trenches. The VIIIth layer is slight-

EXCAVATIONS: PEDDAMARUR

more compact with scanty occurrence of pottery. Layer-IX is the earliest habitation level some time curving and merging into the natural soil, with thickness never exceeding 10 cm.

Six habitation levels were traced. Post-holes noticed in some trenches may indicate the nature of construction of residential houses during the earliest habitation. The houses must have had mud walls covered by some thatched roofs supported by wooden poles. The pottery from this level included black polished dishes, dark-brown (tan ware) bowls sometimes decorated with concentric lines over the shoulder. The collection also included a parabolical lid which has its exact prototype in Meg-1 and 2.

The 2nd phase comprising of layer-VII and VI was also marked by post-holes. The flooring as in the earlier phase appeared to be of rammed earth, a thin line of which is visible.

The 3rd phase showed a slightly different potting tradition. Nonetheless the shapes such as the parabolical lids, storage jars, etc. continued. The floors appeared to have been paved with shale slab.

Fortunately two kitchens with hearths (12 cm. high) of burnt clay were revealed. A tan ware deep bowl was in the vicinity of hearth-A. In the second kitchen a platform paved with shale slabs was behind the hearth, possibly for keeping vessels after cooking. About a metre east of the hearth was a huge red ware storage jar with a thickened and grooved rim. It has a red slip. Aside the jar was a red ware lota with slightly out-turned rim elongated neck and curving body tapering to a saggar base. Lest the storage jar might break during usage it was buried half into the ground.

The flooring of the 4th phase was rammed with kankar and paved with small shale slab. Animal bones, especially of bovine species, were found in almost all the levels. The bones sometimes were broken into bits, possibly to be used as implements.

Phase-5 was marked by profuse usage of shale stone for constructions. As already noted an enclosure wall running to an excavated length of 23 m. was laid directly over the ground without foundation. Due to limited scope of excavation no complete plan of any single house could be gleaned.

There was no discernible distinction either in potting tradition or antiquarian content between phases V and VI. A solitary potin coin recovered from phase VI is an indication that it was contemporaneous with the Satavahana period. A wall of shale slab with an existing height of 15 cm. was noticed to a length of 3 m. running in the east-west direction.

Towards south of wall-3 circular rubble basements noticed in a circular plan each with a diameter of 1.20 m. may form part of a house plan. These must have served as bases for erecting wooden posts.

Pottery

Megalithic (Habitation) :

The pottery from the megalithic levels consisted mainly of red polished, tan, black and red, and black polished. There are also a few sherds of buff ware. The common types were vases with beaded and flanged rims, sometimes grooved. Most of the deep bowls were red polished, some have soot-stain, besides black and red ware dishes there were black polished and black and tan ware dishes. Among the lids the parabolical or breast-shaped was a favourite type. Darkbrown or tan ware vases were common during

the megalithic. One of notable types was a narrow-necked vase with flanged rim possibly used as lota.

Satavahana :

Red polished wares take the place of tan ware during the Satavahana Period. Coarse red conical bowls were plenty in Satavahana but becomes a rarity in the megalithic. The conical bowls were made of finely levigated clay. Troughs with thickened rims either coarse red or red polished and sometimes tan were quite common. The storage vases with thickened rims were mostly of plain red ware occasionally decorated with finger tipped design.

Antiquities

The antiquarian collection from the megalithic levels included beads made of terracotta, horn jasper, cornelian etched and fossilised shell. The terracotta beads were mainly of pear-shaped and tabloid sometimes decorated with concentric circles, jasper beads were mainly spherical, or dark green and brown hues. There were etched cornelian and white painted beads, some of them decorated with double rows of wavy lines enclosed by concentric lines on either side. The beads with circles and dots were much favoured. Bangles of shell sometimes carved with round pellets and copper bangles decorated with beaded design were added to the ornament repertoire. Mention may be made of three types of crystal beads-one truncated barrel shaped with hexagonal cross section, the other is pyramidal hexagonal with a flat base and double vertical perforation at the base. The cutting of the bead exactly resembles that of a diamond. The third is simple spherical. There is also a solitary steatite tabloid bead.

Iron objects are a few which included an arrow head, a sphere head both socketed, a sickle and a dish.

Satavahana period

Beads of terracotta, jasper, plain cornelian, crystal had continued. Shell bangles were plain. There were also copper bangles. Iron objects included a socketed hoe and knives. Another important object is a stone plaque with an incised figure of a rampant lion with a raised fore paw and tail curving upward. The lion stands over a lotus. The reverse side is divided into panels divided by a wavy line enclosed by two bands. The top panel represents a multiple arched hill and the lower a fully blossomed lotus. The plaque is oval shaped with a groove around the edge for suspending with a thread. The rampant lion is reminiscent of the obverse symbol on the Vishnukundin coins. It is likely that the Vishnukundins who were supposed by the recent researchers as the successors of Satavahanas had adopted a Satavahana symbol.

Megalithic Burials at Peddamarur

Two groups of megalithic burials were found at Peddamarur. The first group is on the north of the village about 2 km. by the side of a cart-track leading to Chinnamabavi village. The burials, all cists were erected over a high mound about 5 m. from the present surface. Presently there are only 6 burials the remaining being disturbed. The cists were constructed over made-up mounds enclosed by a circle of vertically planted slab. The intervening space was reinforced by a wall of a dry masonry.

Group - 1 :

Burial - I : The port-hole cist (2.45×2.45 m.) has a passage chamber (0.50×1.75 m.) on the south. The diameter of the enclosing circle is 8 m. The space between the cist chamber and the circle measured 2.85 m.

Burial - II : The port-hole cist measured 2.60×2.70 m. The passage chamber (0.60×1.20 m.) opens towards south. The diameter of the circle is 6 m. The space between the cist chamber. to the circle is 1.65 m.

Group - 2 :

About 3 km. south-west of the village and 1 km. north of the river Krishna lies the 2nd group of megalithic burials. Presently there are 38 burials, most of them being cists, out of which 20 are squarish or rectangular cists, of multiple chambers; 15 oblong single chambered cists and three pit circles. Out of this group 4 burials have been excavated.

Megalith - I :

This is a triple chambered cist burial of shale slabs, provided with a port-hole (0.63 m.) on the south opening into an oblong passage chamber (1.70×1.30 m.). No cap-stone was noticed. The cist is encircled by horizontally paved slabs of large and medium sizes. The outer edges of the slabs were cut semicircular. The intervening space between the circle and the cist was filledup with shale slabs.

The transepted cist has three chambers, the central one being bigger. The two chambers on either side have similar measurements with port-holes for each chamber at the floor level, so that one can move from chamber to chamber.

Chamber - I :

The cist was divided in the north-south axis. The chamber to the east of the middle is designated as Chamber-I, middle chamber as Chamber - II and the western chamber as Chamber-III. Chamber-I measuring 2.35×0.65 m. was tightly packed with shale slab, magnitic quartzite and red clay upto a depth of 35 cm. Small shale chips and quartzite rubble were used upto the level of the funerary deposits.

Contents :

The pottery and skeletal remains were badly crushed due to the heavy weight of the filling. No skull is noticed but for a few charred bones inside urn pots.

The pottery consisted of more than 40 pots of black and red, all black, all red and coarse red ware. The types included parabolical lids of coarse red ware, vases of black ware and red ware with thickened and out turned rims. Some all black ware vases have thickened rims and four perforations above the shoulder on 4 sides.

Some red ware vases were decorated with double rows of pinched design, oblique single and double incisions, concentric bands. There is also an all black ware, miniature bowl with a concave body and short carination at the waist tending to a sagger base. The parabolical (breast-shaped) lid-cum-bowls sometimes have thickened and flanged rims and some times rolled and slightly out-turned rims.

The cist was bisected into two compartments by a low partition slab of 20 cm. height tightly inserted in between the floor slabs of the two compartments. The floors inside the compartments were paved with separate slabs, sometimes two in each compartment.

Chamber - I :

Beside some crushed skulls, bones and pottery, there was also a terracotta sarcophagus in the first chamber (eastern) (2.30×0.90 m.). It has six legs in two rows and decorated with an applique band of finger impressions below the rim. It was placed in the north-south direction. Over the floor near the sarcophagus a terracotta figure of possibly a buffalo was found, the figure was intended to be luted to the sarcophagus at the place of the second horn, it has only a single sturdy horn, with a backward sweep. The head is slightly turned aside. The sarcophagus was covered with a lid. The contents inside were human bones in a very fragile condition with a thick coating of clay.

One crushed skull was placed close to the port-hole, slightly tilted towards west. A few long bones were found on the north of the skull. A second fragmentary skull was found further north with longer bones in the north-south direction. Maxilla with damaged teeth found separately from the skull. Two iron rings constituted the other belongings of this skull. Immediately on the south of sarcophagus about 15 cm. away fragments of the third skull with some longer bones were placed in the north-south direction.

A fourth skull along with a few crushed-bones was at the south-east corner of the cist. An iron spatula was placed closed to the skull. An iron nail riveted to a copper ring in the shape of a spindle whorl was in between the sarcophagus and the partition slab.

Most of the bigger pots with lids were placed adjacent to the walls and smaller pots near the bones. A carinated red ware pot with lid was at the north-east corner. Another black ware lid covering a red ware pot with a thickened and everted rim were near the northern wall. A 9 cm. long spatula like iron object was near the black ware lid.

It appears that the cist was re-used for a number of times. Initially a soft bed of earth was spread over the floor slab to a thickness of 5 to 6 cm. Then the skeletal remains and offerings were deposited over the bed for the first time. Another bed of earth covered the earlier remains for interring a second set of human relics. When the entire space inside the cist was filled, the port-hole was opened again and without entering into it another skull with a few collected bones were deposited near the port-hole from outside.

Chamber - II :

The western chamber contained a single skull separately interred with three longer bones and two terracotta sarcophagi besides pottery. The red ware sarcophagus at the south-west of the cist is pentagonal in cross-section and truncated barrel-shaped. It was hand made tapering to both the ends. The squarish door (20×17 cm.) is slightly above the base and has a door slab found lying outside. The exterior was finely polished.

It consisted of a few fragments of charred skull bones associated with some crushed bones underneath the skull over a bed of brownish earth.

The other coarse red sarcophagus (61×40 cm.) is ovoid and pointed at both the ends. The door in the middle has a covering slab now lying crushed inside along with the fragments of the sarcophagus and the

bones. It was decorated with double rows of multiple concentric lines over the both tapering ends. The contents were a few collected bones and a fragmentary skull placed towards north. The bones appeared to be of a child, which included besides a broken skull, humerus, radius and ulna.

Megalith - III :

This is a single chambered cist burial (2.30 x 1.85 m.), lying on the north-east of cemetery. It is Swastic in plan with passage towards south and enclosed by a circle of horizontally paved slabs. The passage (1.30x1.05 m.) is slightly towards east of the middle. A port-hole (44 cm. diameter) was carved in the middle of the southern wall. It has a door slab (60 x 70 cm.) now tilted back.

The cist was firmly sealed with small rubble and shale slab to a depth of 1.20 m. where the skeletal remains were noticed. No floor slab was provided, the skeletal remains being deposited directly over the bed rock spread with a thin layer of ashy silt. Altogether eight skulls were found deposited almost at equal level. Three skulls were close to the port-hole. No single skull was intact. At times the occipital bones were dislodged and crushed down into the mandible.

The first skull, about 30 cm. away from the port-hole, was lying on the left side and facing north-east. On either side of the skull were femur and tibia. A few ribs were found slightly away with ulna and radius. At the back of the skull was a miniature pot of black and red ware, another small pot with elongated neck and globular body, rim being broken. This skull was placed over a shale slab.

Towards west and 15 cm. away was a second skull with a black and red ware dish at the back. Close to the dish and also inside it were fragmentary bones and slightly away towards the port-hole were ulna and radius.

A third skull was just 30 cm. away from the southern wall with a few other bones. A miniature red ware carinated pot, a black and red ware bowl and a carinated red ware medium pot and another small pot constituted the pottery.

A forth skull was near the western wall 5 cm. away with the longer bones deposited towards south of it in the north-south orientation. A single red ware miniature pot contiguous to the clinostat may belong to this set.

The fifth skull was also near the western wall but slightly towards north of the fourth skull. Two small red ware pots, both in inverted position, another medium size pot with a lid were the other belongings. The longer bones were in the east-west direction. A big red ware vase with broken rim was exactly in the north-west corner of the cist. Adjoining the northern wall and at the same level with the first four skulls were a black polished lid with knob broken, a black and red ware bowl, a small red ware lid was at a higher level.

At the north-east corner where the eastern and northern walls join was placed a visage pot, with a red ware lid, broken and found aside. The pot has 3 perforations one at the top and two below. If the pot is kept inverted it would exactly resemble the visage urns found in the Swat (Gandhara) valley, graves.

Towards south of the visage pot and adjacent to the eastern wall were another set of two pots, a carinated medium sized pot with a lid and a red ware pot.

The seventh skull was found placed at lower level than the rest, close to the eastern wall with the eye sockets facing north, east. Aside the skull were a tibia and some longer bones. Behind was a miniature red ware pot and a lid-cum bowl.

The eighth skull was towards the south of the 7th and much crushed. The associated bones were very fragmentary.

After the entire space inside the main cist was filled with several funeral deposits the passage chamber was utilised for a ninth deposit of a skull, bones and pottery.

Apart from the commonly occurring iron objects such as chisel and knives, etc. one triangular blade of iron is interesting. It was possibly used as an arrow head.

Megalith - IV :

This is a pit burial with a passage on the south and enclosed by a double circle of disintegrated shale rock and situated about 10 m. away from Meg. 2 towards east. The oblong passage (1.87 x 0.53 m.) of shale slabs has a door on the north now slided down into the pit. The skeletal remains were covered upto a certain height with fine clay and the pit lined upwards with a tight packing of shale kankar.

The skeletal remains were noticed at a depth of 1.80 m. lying over shale bed rock. The skull was placed towards north of the pit lying on the left side and facing east. The mandible was dislodged. The other bones such as femur, tibia, radius, ulna and ribs and a part of the pelvic were much crushed. The size of the longer bones may indicate that they belong to a tall person. The leg bones were placed one over the other and the hand bones, the radius and ulna, were on the right of the skull.

In many aspects the burial is unique. The skeletal remains were interred in a pit, rather than a cist, but with a passage on the south. A door was provided on the north of the passage which usually serves as door slab to the port-hole of a cist burial. Instead of lining the pit with slabs to build a cist it was lined with shale kankar. The other variation was the presence of a double circle of shale boulders instead of a circle of horizontally paved slabs. Pottery was also very scanty but for a much damaged black miniature pot. In view of this, it is likely that this burial may be the archetype of cist burials with passages.

(b) Minor Excavations :

1. Gargeyapuram (Kurnool Dist). : Conducted by Sri G. Jawaharlal, Registering Officer, Anantapur.

Excavation at Gargeyapuram village which is 11 km. from Kurnool has been conducted. Inscriptional evidence shows that the temples obtained gifts from the Vijayanagara rulers. Architecturally, wells may be assigned to Vijayanagara period. But the existence of fort walls and ramparts may fall into the later period say in 17th or 18th century A.D. The object of the present exploratory excavation is only to know whether it is a secret passage or a split of the land and not fully to excavate the whole site. An eight metres square trench was excavated around the pit. At the level of 8' below we reached the

subterranean passage of 18" width. The exact depth of the passage is really immeasurable, though have recorded it as 27' by leaving tape inside. On either side of the passage man made construction is visible. The size of the stones used for walls varies from 16" to 21". The width of the stones is in between 3.6" to 4.6". Mixture of mud and lime is found used for jointing the stones. Further digging only would reveal the age and purpose of the garbage. Eight loose sculptures belonging to Chalukyan and late Vijayanagara period have been collected. These are of Srimannarayana, Surya, Jaina sculptures, Lakshminarasimha, and Nandi.

Efforts are being taken to shift the remaining sculptures and also to intensify the Epigraphical survey.

2. Small mound in Dongalasani Village, Siddhout Taluk, Cuddapah Dist. : conducted by Sri N. S. Ramachandra Murthy, Registering Officer, Tirupati.

During the year under report, a small mound in Dongalasani village, Siddhout Taluk, Cuddapah District on the left bank of the river Pennar has been taken up.

Here, lie the traces of an ancient temple called Gangamma Gudi built in brick. The ground plan of the temple lies buried under the mound showing traces of a structural complex by way of alignment of brick walls faintly visible on the surface. Hence, with a view to play bare the structural complex and understand its true nature a minor excavation was conducted by taking 6 trenches.

The excavation has revealed at a depth of 60 cm. from the surface a *structural complex built in brick* rectangular in fashion with walls running in alignment in south-north and east-west directions with entrance gap on the east.

Trench II taken on the southern side of the above structure revealed at a depth of 75 cm. different phases of its construction consisting of loose gravel, irregular stone basement and a brick wall built in 3 courses from bottom to top. Another trench III taken to know further expansion of the brick wall, did not show any results.

Trench - IV taken on the northern side of the structure in which showed the same type of construction.

Trench I A, was laid in the front of above complex on the east which showed continuity of wall a depth of 43 cm. which reached the floor level paved with platform of Cuddapah stone slabs.

Thus a complete exposition of the structural complex brought to light an ancient temple complex built in brick rectangular in shape and consisting of a garbhagriha, antharala and stone paved platform mukhamandapa in front and prakara.

The garbhagriha which is rectangular in plan measures 2.15×1.45 m. in the interior. The walls on either side i.e., south and north are about 15 cm. and 50 cm. high from the foundation level built in 4 corners of brick and joined by means of lime plaster. Similarly in front of it is the antharala which is also same in plan as the above with an entrance gap of 75 cm. in the east. Further, in front of it lies a stone paved platform which measures a total area of 3.65×4.20 m. Along side the edges of the platform

in the south and north is noticed a line of upright stones ; probably it serve as a protection of the platform. On the eastern edge of the mound at the entrance point is noticed a brick compound wall of 1 m. width with inner space filled with earth.

The operation have also brought to light the missing inscriptional slop of Vank' ya Chola Maharaja of Telugu Chola family engraved in 10th century characters. On the basis of the mention of a deity called Kurubabhattari in the above inscription. The temple has been dated to a period not later than 10 C. A. D.

This is also confirmed by the size of the bricks noticed in the constructions, of varying sizes roughly measuring 41.5×6.5 cm.

III. EPIGRAPHY

1. *Inscriptions copied during the year :*

During the year under review, 300 inscriptions have been copied from the Districts of Mahboobnagar, Nellore, Nalgonda, Anantapur, Guntur, Hyderabad, Krishna, Karimnagar, Vizag, Srikakulam, and Ballary.

Anantapur	—	4
Guntur	—	72
Kalvakurthy	—	9
Hyderabad	—	55
Nellore	—	49
Bodhan	—	6
Nalgonda	—	14
Vijayawada	—	5
Repalle	—	1
Gadwal	—	8
Kareemnagar	—	12
Jagatial	—	2
Khammam	—	1
Medchal	—	1
Shadnagar	—	24
Vizag	—	5
Srikakulam	—	15
Ballary	—	2
Atmakur	—	13
Kollapur	—	2
	—	300

2. *Highlights of the work :*

The survey in Nalgonda district has yielded good historical material regarding the subordinate chief of Kayasthas under the domination of Kakatiyas. An epigraphy dated S. 1175 (1253 A.D.) while mentioning the name of the Kayastha chief Gangayashini, also mentions his father Sri Dhanava and grandfather Sri Dhasuva who were not known previously. The location of this incsription confirms the statement found

in the other inscriptions of Gangaya Sahini that his territory extended from Panugallu (in Nalgonda District) to Marjavadi in Cuddapah District.

A copper plate record from Kavali in Nellore District belonging to the time of Harihara II dated S. 1298 mentions the renowned commentator Sayanacharya brother of Madhava the minister of Harihara II.

An inscription from Konakandla village in Anantapur district belonging to the Western Chalukyan king Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya VI, records that in A.D. 1082 a Jaina Basadi was constructed by the king's subordinate in Chitta Jinalaya at Kondakunda and endowed it with gift of land for dhupa, dipa, naivedya of the Jaina deity. The find spot of this and other inscriptions at Konakandla leads one to suspect that this village was at one time a centre of Jainism and the preceptors who claim themselves as hailing from Kondakunda, probably propagated their religion from this great Jaina centre.

The inscriptions collected during the year belong to various dynasties like Kakatiyas, the Reddis, and Vijayanagar. Of these, one inscription from Kondapalli fort near Vijayawada refers to Karpura Vasantaraya, the title of Komaragiri Reddy of Reddi dynasty of Kondavidu and this is possibly the first time that we get epigraphical confirmation for literary source material which mentions with that title. He was endowed with the above title as he used to perform Vasantotsava during the month of Phalguni with all pomp and luxury, spreading camphor and other material of incense, among the public.

Inscriptions from Nalgonda District highlight the political activities of the Western Chalukyan feudal dynasty, namely, the Kanduri Choda. The inscriptions actually give rise to presumption that they took active part in the political rivalry between the two Western Chalukyan kings Jagadekamalla and Taila III.

One of the recently discovered copper plate grants from Jangareddigudem in Polavaram Taluk of West Godavari District belong to Vemamba wife of Allaya Vema, son of Podda and is dated in Saka 1345 (A.D. 1423). These chiefs became powerful during the reign of Komaragiri Reddi and by virtue of their loyalty and devotion to the Reddi kings of Kondavidu, the Eastern Reddi kingdom of Rajahmundry was gained by these chiefs consequent upon the death of Kataya Vema, the able General of Komaragiri Reddi, after defeating the Telugu Choda chiefs. This inscription is the first to be issued by Vema after his success over his enemies.

Few inscriptions have been copied from the Vizag District from Appikonda, Srikurmam and Mukhalingam. The location of an inscription at Appikonda shows the extent to which the Western Chalukyan king Somesvara III penetrated deep into the coastal region through Vengi at a time when the kings of the region, the Telugu Chalukya Chola kings and their subordinate chiefs were weak to stem the tide of attack by the Chalukya Chola kings.

Some of the inscriptions copied from Srikurmam and Mukhalingam reveal that the Chalukyas, who claim their descent from Eastern Chalukyan king Rajarajanarendra, and his son Kulottunga Rajendra Choda, came to Kalinga and became faithful subordinates of the Eastern Gangas who were ruling over the region at a time, when the entire coastal area was under the rule of Kakatiya Ganapatideva, the king of Orugallu.

Recently some of the coins which have been collected by Sri Narahari of Karimnagar, from the Kapparaopet region in Peddapalli Taluk, Karimnagar District, have been examined by Dr. P. V. Parabrahma Sastri. Some of them belong to Simukha, the earliest of the Satavahana rulers which proves beyond doubt that the early Satavahanas had their early settlement in the Karimnagar region; made Paithan as their northern capital to stem the tide of foreign invasions from the Sakas, Yavanas and Pahlavas; and made the Guntur-Krishna valley as their eastern centre of activity to check the inroads from the Chedi ruler, Kharavela of Kalinga.

Some other coins in the collection belong to Gobhadra, etc., probably of the Sunga dynasty. These coin collections may reveal the extent of the empire of the Sungas. Though it is believed that some of the early Satavahanas were patrons of Jainism, the Triratna symbol on the 'Simukha' coin reveals their adoption of Buddhist religion, which was for some time the religion of their masters, the Sungas.

The summaries of the inscriptions collected so far are now being catalogued on card index for the benefit of the scholars which will be arranged in a systematic way in the chronological order and dynasty-wise.

The inscriptions are very valuable in knowing the economic conditions of the people through ages. Many taxes have been mentioned in various copper plate grants right from the early times. Generally these taxes which are mentioned in copper plate grants levied on various articles of merchandise, entertainment taxes of festivals besides the usual revenue of lands and paddy. The revenue accrued from the above taxes are in most of the cases was gifted to the deity for the performance of anga-ranga-vaibhavas and other festivals on auspicious occasions and for the daily offerings to the god. There are instances wherein feeding houses are also maintained by the revenue from the taxes. Tax remissions are commonly seen in the villages gifted as agraharas to brahmins well versed in Sastras, Vedas, Vedangas, Agamas, etc. Less strain and much consideration has been shown while levying the taxes on Agraharas, with a view to promote Vedic learning. These brahmins were given all facilities to execute and propagate Vedic learning. The king in the medieval ages donated a group of villages to a number of Brahmins and named such group a Chaturvedimangalam. During Vijayanagara times these were taxes mainly Margadaya-sunka, Illari, Pullari, Maharaja prayojanas, taxes on many gramas, etc. During the time of Sadashivraya, most of his inscriptions record not his political achievements but the remission of Barber taxes and Dommari Pannu (entertainment tax), etc.

The temples played an important role in the society as gleaned from the inscriptions. They served not only as mere religious institutions but also as seats of learning in various fields of knowledge, studies in Vedas, Vedangas, Saiva, Vaishnava agamas, served as patrons of fine arts like dance, drama, music etc. There are instances recorded in the inscriptions regarding the patronage of the musicians, dancers, artists by the temple itself. Some times they acted as courts of justice and served the common man by the establishment of hospitals.

The doctors are employed by the temples and sometimes patronised by the kings themselves, by gifting villages to doctors as Bhishak-gramas. One such family of doctors is mentioned in an inscription from K. B. Museum at Hyderabad. It records the gift of the village of Sandhavaram as Bhishak-grama to Bhima, a Jaina, belonging to Chaturdhavarna, and a follower of Parahita system. He is also endowed with the title Vaidya Vidyadhana. The inscription is undated and damaged.

These are but few aspects which can be gleaned from the inscriptions regarding the script, language, literature, social and political life of the times through ages. Thus, inscriptions are not only useful for the study of the political history but also various phases of human life in the past.

3. *Present Work :*

Four taluks in Mahboobnagar District viz., Gadwal, Kalwakurthy, Alampur and Shadnagar have been surveyed completely. The Mahboobnagar and Nagarkurnool taluks in Mahboobnagar district and Nellore taluk in Nellore district are under active survey.

4. *Publications :*

Cuddapah District Volumes I and II have been published during the year. The *Epigraphia Andhrica* Vol. V is under finalisation and the District Vol. of Nalgonda is also under finalisation.

Further, the following subordinate officers have done epigraphical survey as noted against each during the year under report.

1. *Registering Officer, Tirupathi :*

Village-wise Epigraphical Survey of Chittoor District continued during the year. The Registering Officer has copied 38 inscriptions in all during his tour in Chittoor and Cuddapah Districts. A Majority of inscriptions copied are in Tamil Grantha Characters. Among the inscriptions copied in Cuddapah District the one that deserves mention is from Peddachappali Village in Kamalapuram Taluk as it is a new inscription not noticed so far belonging to the western Chalukyan King Someswara III Bhuloka Malla dated in his 9th regnal year corresponding to Nandana. It also mentions his subordinate a Mallideva Maharaja who bore the title Trailokyamalla and was ruling from his capital Vallur. During his period it also mentions a certain Yuvaraja 'Ahavamalla Deva' as making gift to a Saivamatta belonging to Pasupatha sect. This mention of Yuvaraja Ahavamalla presupposes the existence of an elder brother to Jagadekamalla II who succeeded Bhulokamalla III.

2. *Registering Officer, Visakhapatnam :*

Epigraphical Survey was carried in the remaining villages of Bobbili Taluk and taken up Palakonda Taluk for the same. Besides the above, some villages in Srungavarapukota Taluk were also surveyed on receipt of information from the villagers; and only 25 epigraphs have been copied. These mainly belong to the E. Gangas. From Lakshmidevipeta, an inscription was copied which belongs to one Akkadeva Raja of 15th century A.D. which also bears the emblem of 'matsya.'

3. *Registering Officer, Anantapur :*

During the exploratory survey we acquired 3 sets of copper plates pertaining to Vijayanagar period. Among these copper plates one copper plate was secured from Sri M. Vasudeva Rao, Land-Lord, Muthukur (v), Medakasira Taluk, Anantapur District. It has been stated that Raya had donated the village of Sivaram and Muthukur to certain Devunigouda who accompanied Perinayaka for constructing the fort. The boundary particulars of Sivaram and Muthukur villages and the names of Talaries have also been referred to in this record.

Another copper plate has been donated by Sri C. B. Someswara Reddy of Cheruvubelgola (Kurnool District). It is dated Saka 1413 belonging to the reign of Saluva Narasimha of Saluva dynasty. But it is wrongly stated that the illustrious Sri Krishnadevaraya was the son of Saluva Narasimha of Saluva dynasty and later Krishnadevaraya is said to have donated 16 villages which are lying in vicinity of Cheruvubelgola to Kamireddynayaka, Kasireddynayaka and Muppireddynayaka who are said to have defeated the Palegars and Gollas who created troubles in those 16 villages* have been clearly indicated in the plate. The importance the plate lies in giving the clear village administration of the Vijayanagar period. Another copper plate has been secured from Sri P. Siddareddy, village Munsif, of Kondagattupalli of Anantapur District.

This copper plate pertaining to Vijayanagara period has been dated Saka 1282 and belongs to Sri Veerapratapa Sri Harihararaya of Sangama dynasty. It is stated that while the king Sri Harihararaya was ruling at Vijayanagar, the village of Patnam was given to a certain Ramireddy. The boundary particulars of the village has been referred to.

IV. CONSERVATIONS

During the year under report under non-plan, an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh under 'Minor Works' for District Museums and an amount of Rs. 80,000/- under 'Minor Works' for conservation of monuments was sanctioned. But only an amount of Rs. 32,782.84, under 'Conservation of Monuments' and an amount of Rs. 22,250/- under 'District Museums' Minor Works' could be utilised. The details of the works attended to under Conservation and District Museums are as follows :

Conservation of Monuments (Non-Plan) :

1. Expenditure towards conducting Hydrological Survey operations in the vicinity of Q. S. Tombs, Golconda.
2. Special repairs to tomb, etc. Patancheru Protected Monument of Medak Dist.
3. Special repairs to mosque etc. Khairatabad, Hyderabad.
4. Special repairs to Shamsheerkota Monument of Hyderabad.
5. Removal of rank vegetation, fungus, etc. at Someswaraswamy temple, Pillalamarri of Nalgonda District.
6. Special repairs to Gollathagudi temples of Mahboobnagar District.
7. Minor repairs to railing, etc. at Monolithic Pillar, Nalgonda.
8. Refixing of dislocated barbed wiring around Nawab's tower, Cuddapah.
9. Balance amount paid towards conservation work at Kalakantanarayana temple of Peddatumbalam of Kurnool District.
10. Special repairs to Hashmathpet Monument, Hyderabad.
11. Demarcation of boundary stones at Taramati-Premamati monument at Golconda, Hyderabad.
12. Repairs to cisterns at Q. S. Tombs, Golconda.

Non-Plan District Museums' Works :

1. Anti-termites treatment to R.S.R. Govt. Museum, Rajahmundry.
2. Enamel sign-board to District Museum, Pillalamarri of Mahboobnagar District.
3. Continuance of building work at A.S.P. Govt. Museum & Research Institute, Kakinada through R & B Department.
4. Final Bill payment to the contractor whose contract has been terminated for A.S.P. Govt. Museum & Research Institute Building Work at Kakinada.

5. Digging of well and installation of electric motor and laying water lines in the V. J. Museum Compound, Vijayawada.
6. Wooden partition work at the newly constructed museum building at V. J. Museum, Vijayawada.

Under the plan provision under conservation an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh was sanctioned from which an amount of Rs. 74,289.08 is utilised for the following works :

1. Conservation work at Kondapalli Fort of Krishna District (works like conservation of Darbar Hall, Rani Mahal, etc. on the hill top).
2. Balance amount paid towards the cost of electrification works at Qutubshahi Tombs, Golconda.
3. Electrification of Khajana Building Museum, Golconda.

Under the plan schemes, the construction of the Museum Buildings as detailed hereunder are in progress. They are got executed through the R & B Department.

1. Accretion to Yeleswaram Pavilion in the Directorate premises.
2. Construction of 1st floor over the Sculpture Gallery of the State Museum, Hyderabad.
3. Construction of District Museum at Cuddapah.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF MUSEUMS

During the year 1977-78 State Museum, Hyderabad had enriched its collection by acquiring more number of objects. The acquisition was made through exploration, purchase and Treasure Trove Act.

A rich collection of megalithic pottery was received through Treasure Trove Act. This collection, comes from Bethole village in Huzur Nagar Taluk, throw formidable light on the Megalithic culture of Andhra Pradesh. All the objects earthen pots, jars, lids & plates are beautifully shaped and intact. Exploration of the site conducted by the Museum personnel proved it to be of very potential on megalithic culture, as further explorations are being taken up shortly by the exploration branch.

During the exploration by the Museum staff at Kolanupaka, a beautiful Siva Linga with Yonipithas, and a torso of Vajrapani were discovered which were removed to State Museum, and acquired. Two copper plate grants issued by king Ananta Varma of Eastern Ganga dynasty, and his feudatory were purchased and are under study.

A good collection of Swat Valley culture was received as a presentation from Sri N. V. Rao. They consists of a stucco figures of Avalokiteswara and Buddha. They are rare collection which certainly enriches the Museum. Four Persian Paintings with couplets from Rubayat of Omar Qyam, and 'Shahnama' of Firdausi were purchased during this year. Arrangements are afoot to display them in apt places prominently to rouse the curiosity of the visitors.

'Mahabharata' a palm leaf manuscript with 16 Parvas, and a complete set of 'Harivamsa' was also acquired to this Museum during this year. A good number of contemporary paintings were purchased to encourage the artists as well as to display in various Museums and Art Pavilions, out of which 24 are from the personal collection of Sri P.T. Reddy, renowned artist of Hyderabad.

Along with the Treasure Trove of 52 gold coins issued by the Vijayanagara Rajas, a 'Mithuna' plaque was also received which is of more historical value because of its find-place and the style.

In all the State Museum had received 93 objects in which 56 objects are received through Treasure Trove Act, 3 on presentation and 37 objects were purchased. The break-up figure of the purchased objects and their value are as follows :

Persian Paintings	4 Nos.	Rs. 3,000/-
Contemporary Paintings	28 Nos.	Rs. 45,900/-
Palmleaf Manuscripts	3 Nos.	Rs. 9,000/-
Copper Plates	2 Nos.	Rs. 300/-

A model of Amaravati Stupa has been prepared to enrich the Amaravati Gallery of the Museum. The model is being prepared to the scale, with basement dome, chakra, Pradakshinapadha, Ayaka pillars, the motifs and the scenes from Jataka stories and Buddha's Life.

During this year, the Museum had participated in the Museum Week celebration. Arrangement for the Mobile Museum was afoot and the plan for the first exhibition of the Mobile Museum was complete. The first Photo Exhibition will be taken to the interiors of Andhra Pradesh shortly which will be followed by replicas, casts and original objects in subsequent programmes.

The Museum Library hitherto placed in the Head Office centralised Library Hall had been received back and proposals and plans for arranging the Library Hall-cum-Reading Room are drawn during this year. A separate room to facilitate the scholars for study of the coins and other objects is being arranged.

During this year the paintings in the Contemporary Art Pavilion were rearranged giving prominence to the talents of the local artists to have a better understanding of the art traditions of Andhra Pradesh.

As many as a lakh of people visited the Museum during this year. The schools and colleges have shown much interest in the collection, made their students study the collection for their mark for internal assessment.

VI. PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

The following monuments have been declared protected under the Andhra Pradesh Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960 during the year 1977-78.

Anantapur District :

Pasupathinatha temple at Bondakal (v), Rayadurg Taluk of Anantapur District.

Ranganatha Swamy temple at Veepalaparthi, Kalyandurg.

Chennakesavaswamy temple at Yadiki (v), Tadpatri Taluk.

Chennakesavaswamy temple at Kommettee village of Tadpatri Taluk.

Anjaneyaswamy temple, Ramalingeswara Swamy temple, hill known as Budgan situated at Budagavi (v), Uravakonda Taluk.

Maheswaraswamy temple at Sivaram village of Madakasira Taluk.

Sri Chennakesavaswamy temple at Kadavakal (v), of Tadpatri Taluk.

Chittoor District :

Kodandaramaswamy temple (Adityeswara temple) at Bokkasam palem of Srihalahasti.

Perumallaswamy temple also known as Prasanna Venkateswaraswamy temple at Thondamanadu of Srihalahasti.

Kala Bhairava Prayaga Madhavaswamy temple at Damara Palam (v) Puttur Taluk.

Kangundhi fort,

Kalikamba temple,

Venugopalaswamy temple,

Virupakshaswamy temple,

Carved Image of Hanuman

Kangundhi (v)-Kuppam Taluk.

Neelakantheswaraswamy temple, Laddigam village of Punganur Taluk.

Cuddapah District :

Kota at Yerraguntla village of Rajampet taluk.

West Godavari :

Jaina image at Penumanchili (v) Narsapur Taluk.

Karimnagar District :

Gauthameswaraswamy temple at Manthani.

Guntur District :

Veerabhadraswamy temple at Macherla (v) Macherla taluk.

Kurnool District :

Ancient bastion, Chennakesavaswamy temple, Basaveswaraswamy temple, Chennasomeswara Swamy temple at Palakol (v) of Kurnool Taluk.

Nalgonda District :

Cairn circles at Adloor (v) of Nalgonda Taluk.

Warangal District :

Inscriptions at Urs (v) of Warangal Taluk.

The following monuments have been declared deprotected and deleted from the list of protected monuments.

1. Cairns situated at Nandam (v) of Khammam taluk.
2. Jama Masjid situated at Adoni (v) Adoni Taluk of Kurnool Dist.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

The following publications have been brought out during the year under report at a total cost of
Rs. 1,37,745/-

1. Kakatiya Charitra.
2. Temple Sculpture of Andhra Pradesh.
3. Cuddapah District Inscriptions.
4. Lepakshi Portfolios.
5. Pre-historic & Proto-historic Cultures of Palvoy.
6. Andhra Historical Research Society Journal, Volume 37.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

(i) Exhibitions

During the year under report the Registering Officer, Tirupathi has jointly conducted an archaeological exhibition with the Registering Officer, Nellore in the Prakasam Bhavan, Ongole (Prakasam) from 14-11-77 to 21-11-77 coinciding with A.P. Day celebrations. Objects put on display include middle, and late stone age implements, black and redware, blackware, redware and jointed redware pottery sherds arranged in chronological order. Further a number of iron implements, terracotta and figurines and shell objects were also displayed. An important attraction is the display of Telugu chart showing the development of Telugu script through the ages and the architectural changes showing different stages of developments of the Stupa, Chaitya and temple architecture, besides a number of full size photographs of the monuments arranged in a chronological sequence. A number of distinguished visitors including officials, students and common people have witnessed the exhibition.

(ii) Registration of Antiquities

The Parliament has enacted a comprehensive legislation, enforcing strict regulation for the protection of antiquities with a view to curb the smuggling of art pieces out of the country.

Under this scheme, 7 Registering Offices were set up in 1974-75 out of the grant sanctioned by the Government of India for this State.

During the year under report, 16 antiquities were registered under the Antiquities Registration Scheme.

The establishment and other contingent expenditure on this scheme incurred during 1977-78 was about 3,08,300/-. The Registering Officers were also given in-service training at Madras in the year 1976-77.

APPENDIX A

The source and metal of the coins are shown in the following table :

How Acquired	Metal				Total
	Gold	Silver	Copper	Lead	
As Treasure-troves	502 full 1	526 full 9	585 full 116	—	1613 full coins 126 broken and one melted.
Presented	—	—	—	—	—
Purchased	—	—	—	—	—
Total :	502 1	526 9	585 116	—	1613 126
Grand Total :	503	535	701	—	1739

The Districts in the Dominion which have contributed coins under Treasure-trove with the number and metal of coins are shown below :

Districts	Metal			Total
	Gold	Silver	Copper	
Adilabad	—	220 full 1 (in two pieces)	—	220 full 1 (two pieces)
Anantapur	30	—	240	270
Cuddapah	2	—	—	2
East Godavari	354 (base gold)	—	—	354
Exploration at Bodhan by the Department of Archaeology & Museums	1	—	—	1
Guntur	—	7	—	7
Hyderabad	—	23 full 7 half	11	34 full 7 half

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1	2	3	4	5
Karimnagar	—	4	284 full 116 broken	288 full 116 broken
Khammam	17 1 (in two pieces)	1	—	18 full 1 (in two pieces)
Mahaboobnagar	44	—	—	44
Medak	—	—	48	48
Nalgonda	—	14	—	14
Nizamabad	52	116	—	168
Warangal	—	141 1 (melted coin)	—	141 1 (melted coin)
West Godavari	2	—	2	4
Total	503	535	701	1,739

APPENDIX B

Table of the coins acquired for the State Museum, Hyderabad during the year from 1st April, 1977 to 31st March, 1978, showing the metal and dynasty to which they belong.

S.No.	Dynasty	Metal			Total
		Gold	Silver	Copper	
1.	Adil Shahi	—	—	48	48
2.	Asaf Jahi, etc.	—	78	12	90
3.	Bahmani, etc.	—	22	—	22
4.	East India Company	—	—	1	1
5.	Indian Native States	—	—	240	240
6.	Mughal	—	419 full 9 Broken & melted	—	419
7.	Pallava ?	354 (Base)	—	—	354
8.	Punch marked	—	7	—	7
9.	Satavahana	—	—	284 full 116 broken	284 116
10.	Sultans of Delhi	14	—	—	14
11.	Vijayanagar	129	—	—	129
12.	Western Chalukya	5 (base)	—	—	5
13.	Yadava ?	1 (in two pieces)	—	—	1

APPENDIX C

List of coins acquired for the Cabinet of State Museum, Hyderabad during the period from 1st April 1977 to 31st March, 1978

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>No. of coins</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. of coins</i>	<i>How acquired</i>	<i>Dt. of receipt</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A.R.	2	full and	Mughal coins	2	full &	Collector,
		4	half		4	half	Hyderabad
	A.V.	9	full &	Mughal coins	9	full &	T.T.
		3	half		3	half	
	A.V.	2		2 Guntulu	2		
				(ear rings)			
	A.V.	4		Gundlu	4		
	A.R.	12		Mughal coins	12		
2.	A.E.	11		Asaf Jahi &	11	Collector,	Lr. C4/86 85/7
				Bahmani?		Hyderabad	dt. 12.8.197
						T.T.	
3.	A.V.	27		Vijayanagar coins	27	Tahsildar,	Lr. I/1490/7
				(a) Half Pagoda		Achampet	dt. 24-5-77
				(Krishna Roy)		Tq. T.T.	
				(b) Pagoda		Mahaboobnagar	
				(Achutya Roy)		Dist.	
	A.V.	1		Sega Billa	1		
	A.R.	1		Impure silver	1		
				Kada (Bangle)			
4.	A.V.	12		Khalji, etc.	12	Tahsildar,	Lr. no. C2/
				Khalki (9)	9	Sathupalli Tq.	2819/76 dt.
				„ (?)	1	T.T. Khamam	25-5-77
				Tugluq	1		
				„ (?)	1		
		14 ornaments		Yadava coin (?)	1	(in two pieces)	
		with		Wrist chain	1		
		container		Ring	1		

COINS ACQUIRED FOR THE CABINET

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Onki ring	1				
			Wire pieces	3				
			Meli khenta	1				
			Champa sarulu	2				
			Locket	1				
			Gold piece	1				
			Gold ear guppa	1				
			Gold small piece	1				
A.E.	1		Copper container	1				
5.	A.V.	52	Vijayanagar					
			Hari Hara II	4	Collector,	2-7-77	Lr.D.O.	B
			Deva Raya II	2	Nizambad T.T.		(oblique)	
			Krishna Raya	24			10743/77,	
			Achuta Raya	15			dt. 1-7-77	
			Spherule	2				
			Unidentified (one coin in two pieces)	5				
			One Mithuna flake					
			Transferred to G.A. vide A/c. No. 7789					
6.	A.R.	48	Mughal	48	Collector,	2-7-77	Lr. A4/	
					Nizamabad, T.T.		4459/77,	
							dt. 1-7-77	
7.	A.R.	1	Mughal	1	Tahsildar,	14-7-77	Lr. B4/	
			Shah Jahan ?		Burgaampad Tq.,		4635/76.	
					Khammam Dist. T.T.		dt. 29-6-19	
8.	A.R.	148	Mughal	148	Tahsildar,	16-7-77	Lr. A3/3293,	
		1	coin in two pieces		Luxettipet Tq.		dt. 15-7-7	
					Adilabad			
A.V.	2		Two gold pedugelu	2				
	4	(orna- ments)	four small ear rings	4				
9.	A.R.	73	Mughal	73	Tahsildar,	19-7-77	Lr. A5/	
					Chinmir Tq. T.T.		(oblique)	
					Adilabad		2881/76,	
							dt. 14-7-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	A.E.	48	Adil Shahi? earthern pots one iron spear transferred to G.A. (Section)	48	Collector, Medak, T.T.	25-8-77	Lr. D6/ 7705/77, dt. 6-8-77
11.	A.E.	240	Indian Native States?	240	Tahsildar Kadri Tq. T.T. Anantapur	25-8-77	A2/2202/7 dt. 3-8-77
12.	A.E.	1	Iron casuet (copper containers)	1	Tahsildar, Narsapur, T.T. W. Godavari	25-8-77	A1/610/ dt. 6-8-77
	A.E.	2	Asaf Jah VII	1			
			East India Company	1			
	A.V.	2	Mohammad Shah	1			
			Tughluq Shah(?)	1			
	A.V.	ornament	gold chain	1			
13.	A.V.	2	Vijayanagar (Ranga Raya II?)	2	Collector, Cuddapah, T.T.	25-8-77	B7/9000/77 dt. 10-8-77
14.	A.R.	22	Bahmani Adil Shahi? Two gold wires	22			
				2	Tahsildar, Mulug Tq. T.T. Warangal	27-8-77	C2/1835/7 dt. 20-8-77
15.	A.V.	17	Vijayanagar Hari Hara Krishna Deva Raya Achuta Raya Sada Siva Raya Unidentified	17	Tahsildar, Atmakur Tq. T.T. Mahaboobnagar	1-9-77	B1/6394/7 dt. 31-8-77
16.	A.V.	354	Pallava (?) (Phanam) One brass Bharina container	354	II A. J. Magistrate, Rajahmundry Tq./ T.T. East Godavari	17-9-77	1131 dt. 14-9-
17.	A.V.	5 (base gold)	Western Chalukya	5	Tahsildar, Tq. T.T. Khammam	27-9-77	B8/325/7 dt. 23-9-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	A.V.	1	Vijayanagar	1	From the Explora- tion at Bodhan by the Dept. of Arch- aeology & Museums (Pottery Asst.)	5-10-77	E2/4432/77
19.	A.E.	284	Satavahana full coins	284	Collector, Kareem- nagar, T.T.	12-10-77	B5/1147/ dt. 5-10-77
		56	broken coins	56	broken coins		
		60	broken pieces	60	broken pieces		
			Iron objects (2) these iron objects transferred to G.A. Section				
20.	A.V.	30	Vijayanagar Ornaments	30	Collector, Anantapur T.T.	3-11-77	B5/9204, dt. 2-8-77
			Three gold pieces (Chintaku)				
21.	Gold	1	Gold pattak Ornament	1	Collector, Hydera- bad T.T.	29-11-77	C4/17301 dt. 26-8-77
22.	A.R.	40	Asaf Jahi	40	Tahsildar, Kara- reddy T.T. Nizamabad	6-12-77	B5/3392 dt. 1-12-77
23.	A.R.	7	Punch-marked	7	Collector, Guntur, T.T.	3-1-78	C6/5/45/77
24.	A.R.	24	Asaf Jahi	24	Tahsildar, Warangal T.T.	2-1-78	E2/4260/77 dt. 31-1-77
25.	A.R.	28	Mughals i. Aurangzeb ii. Shah Jahan iii. Shah Alam iv. Farrukhasiyar v. ?	28 24 1 1 1	Tahsildar, Banswada Tq., T.T. Nizamabad	6-1-78	A3/8596/77, dt. 9-1-78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26. A.R.	14		Asaf Jahi	14	Tahsildar, Suryapet	10-2-78	A3/7166/77,
			i. Afzaluddaulah	2	T. T.		dt. 10-1-78
			ii. Mahboob Ali Khan	11	Nalgonda		
			iii. Melted coin	1			
27. A.R.	95		Mughals	95	Sub-Inspector,	16-2-78	35/H4/78,
			Melted coin	1	Mangapet Tq.		dt. 15-2-78
A.E.			1 broken copper container		T.T. Warangal		
28. A.R.	4		Mughals	4	Collector, Karim- nagar T.T.	4-3-78	B5/7780/77, dt. 2-3-78
	Gold		503				
	Silver		535				
	Copper		701				
	Grand Total		<u>1,739</u>				

APPENDIX D

The Budget of this Department both under Non-Plan and Plan is as follows :

S.H.	M.H. 278-Art and Culture	Non-Plan	Plan
		Rs.	Rs.
(C)-Archaeology		29,31,300	86,000
(D)-Archives & Museums		8,10,460	2,35,000
477-Capital outlay		—	4,79,000

Out of the above budget provision the following are the important items of expenditure during the year 1977-78 in addition to the expenditure on salaries.

I. Excavations :

S.No.	Name of site	Expenditure incurred
(1)	(2)	(3)
(A) Major Excavations :		
(1)	Uppalapadu, Alampur Taluk, Mahboobnagar Dist.	52,625
(2)	Chagatur, „ „	52,625
(3)	Pragatur, „ „	52,625
(4)	Yapaldevipadu, „ „ (Peddamarur)	52,625
(B) Minor Excavations :		
(1)	Gargeyapuram, Kurnool District.	500
(2)	Dongalasani Village, Siddhout Taluk, Cuddapah Dist.	1,500

II. Conservation of Monuments :

S.No.	Place and Details of work	Expenditure incurred
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Special repairs to tombs etc., at Patancheru protected monument of Medak District.	5,289.69
2.	Special repairs to mosque, etc., at Khairatabad.	5,117.33

(1)	(2)	(3)
3.	Expenditure towards conducting Hydrological Survey operations in the vicinity of Qutub Shahi Tombs, Golconda	361.50
4.	Special repairs to Shemsherkota Monuments of Hyderabad	10,000.00
5.	Removal of rank vegetation, fungus, etc. at Someswaraswamy temple, Pillamarri, Nalgonda Dist.	3,950.00
6.	Special repairs to Gollathgudi temples of Mahboobnagar District	7,000.00
7.	Minor repairs to railing, etc. at Monolithic Pillar, Nalgonda	60.00
8.	Refixing of dislocated barbed wiring around Nawab's tower, Cuddapah	50.00
9.	Balance amount paid towards conservation work at Kalakantaranayana temple of Peddatumbalam	397.00
10.	Special repairs to Hashmatpet monument, Hyderabad	8,888.11
11.	Demarcation of boundary stones at Taramati-Premamati monuments at Golconda	4,603.53
12.	Repairs to cisterns at Qutub Shahi Tombs, Golconda	1,000.00
	TOTAL :	46,717.16

III. Developments of Museums :

Non-Plan District Museum Works :

1.	Anti-termite treatment to R.S.R. Govt. Museum, Rajahmundry	1,000.00
2.	Enamel sign board to District Museum, Pillamarri, Mahboobnagar District	850.00
3.	Continuance of Building work at A.S.P. Govt. Museum & Research Institute, Kakinada	11,300.00
4.	Digging of well and installation of electric motor and laying water lines in the Victoria Jubilee Museum, Vijayawada	8,000.00
5.	Wooden partition work at the newly constructed museum building at Victoria Jubilee Museum, Vijayawada	1,000.00

Plan :

1.	Conservation work at Kondapalli Fort	51,096.08
2.	Electrification work of Qutub Shahi Tombs, Golconda	8,193.00
3.	Electrification of Khajana Building Museum, Golconda	15,000.00
4.	Accretion to Yeleswaram Pavilion	1,15,000.00
5.	Construction of District Museum at Cuddapah	1,41,000.00
	TOTAL :	5,53,158.24

APPENDIX E

Statement showing the Museum Collection during the year 1977-78

<i>Coin</i>																	
<i>Contemporary Arts</i>		<i>Coin</i>															
<i>Miniatu</i>	<i>Textiles</i>	<i>Bronzes</i>	<i>Arms and Weapons</i>	<i>Copper plates</i>	<i>Manuscripts</i>	<i>Palm leaf manuscripts</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Base gold</i>	<i>Potin</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Copper</i>	<i>Brass</i>	<i>Sculptures</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
28	4	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	5	41	93

APPENDIX F

Statement

<i>No. of monuments declared as protected during 1977-78</i>		<i>Conservation</i>		<i>Expenditure incurred</i>
<i>Andhra</i>	<i>Telangana</i>	<i>No. of monuments conserved</i>	<i>No. of Sculptures conserved</i>	
1	2	3(a)	3(b)	4
19	3	24	—	Rs. 5,53,258/-

<i>Exploration of sites</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>No. of excava- tions conducted</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Publications</i>	
<i>Surveyed</i>	<i>Explored</i>				<i>No.</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
5(a)	5(b)	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	Rs. 2,000/-	4	Rs. 2,10,500/-	6	Rs. 1,37,745/-

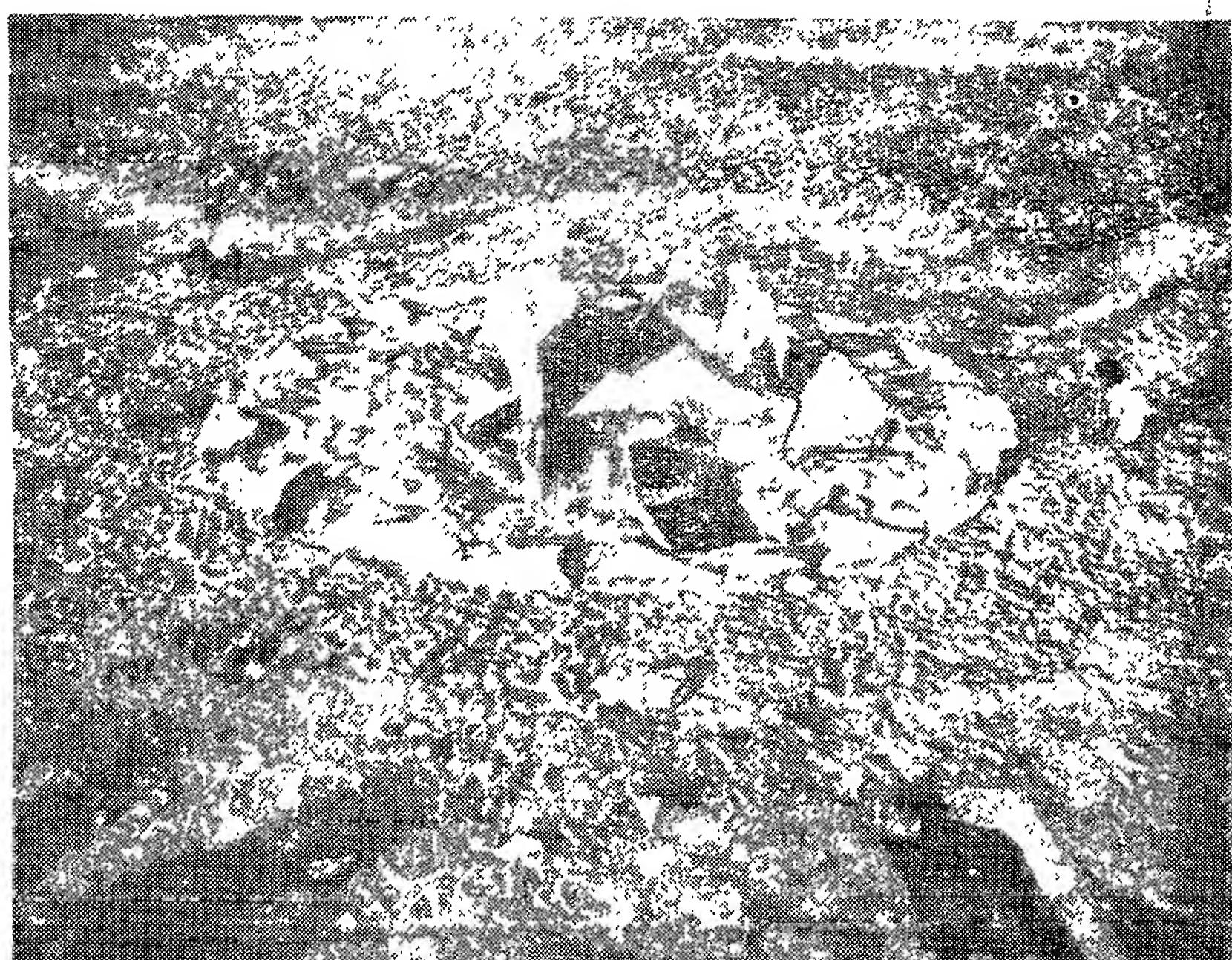
<i>Library Books</i>			<i>Epigraphy</i>			<i>Contemporary Arts</i>	
<i>No. of Books purchased or received as presentation, exchange, etc.</i>	<i>Expen- diture</i>	<i>No. of inscriptions discovered</i>	<i>No. of estampages taken</i>	<i>No. of estampages diciphered</i>	<i>No. purchased</i>	<i>No. Expenditure</i>	
11	12	13(a)	13(b)	13(c)	14(a)	14(b)	
544	Rs. 17,300	300	300	60	28	Rs. 29,700/-	

<i>Antiquities</i>			<i>Relics</i>		<i>Palm leaf manuscripts</i>	
<i>No. purchased</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>No. purchased</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>No. purchased</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
15(a)	15(b)		16(a)	16(b)	17(a)	17(b)
4	Rs. 3,000/-		2	Rs. 300/-	3	Rs. 9,000/-



PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith I

Triple chambered porthole burial
with passage towards south



PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith II

General view of double chambered
porthole cist burial



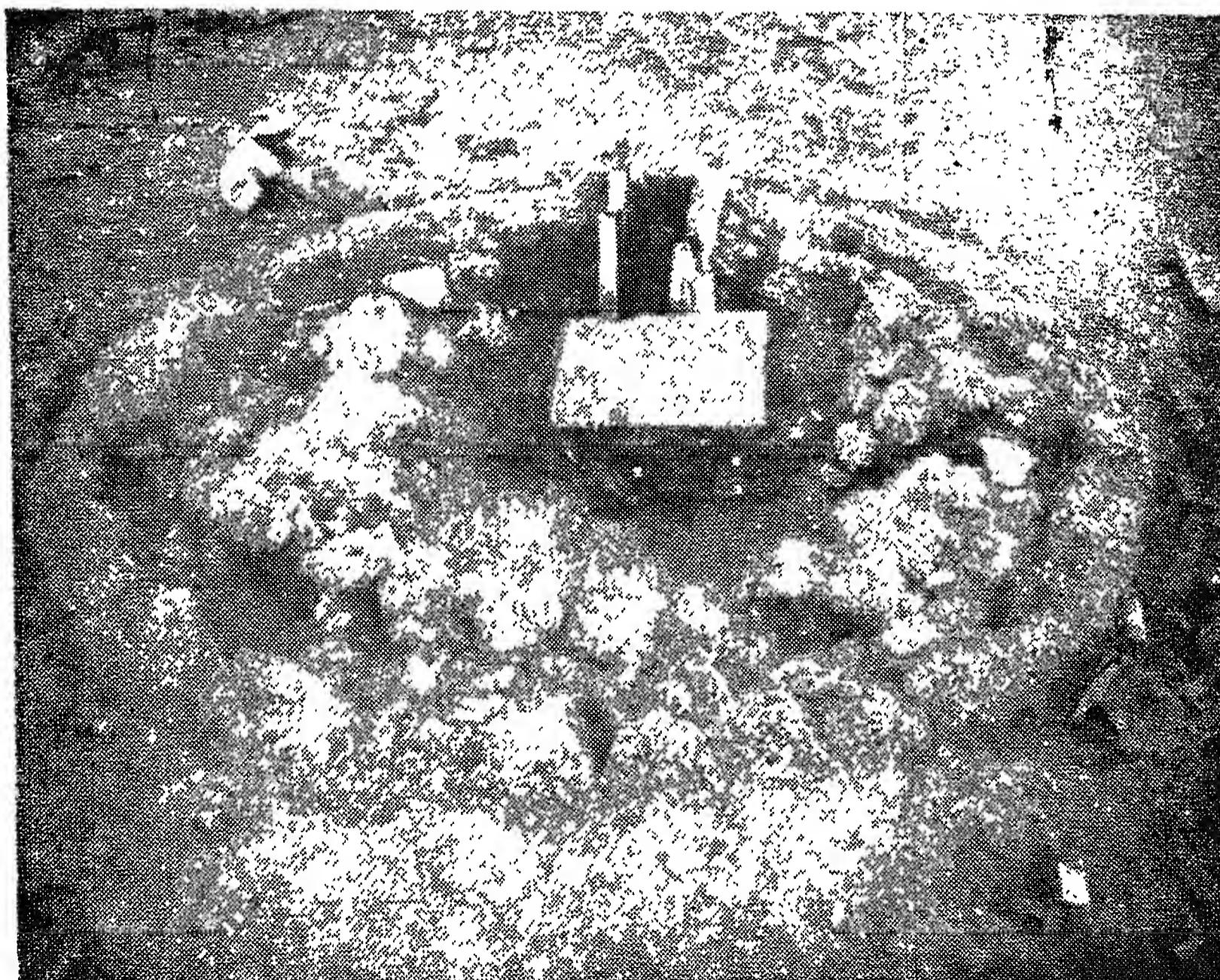
PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith II
A double chambered cist burial after
exposure showing three surphophagi



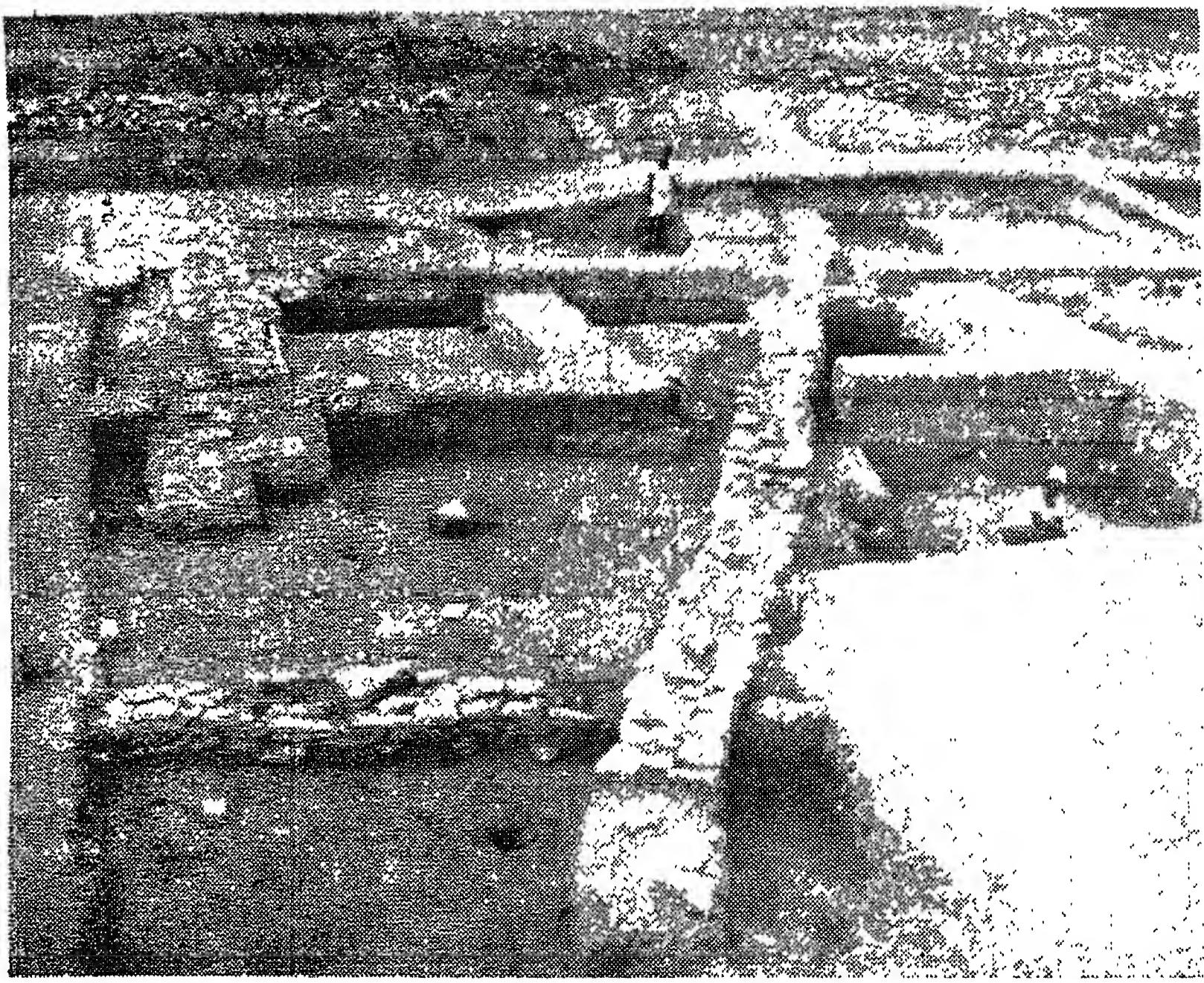
PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith III
A single chambered porthole cist burial



PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith III
Passage chamber of Megalith III showing
the porthole with door slab and
skeletal remains inside the passage

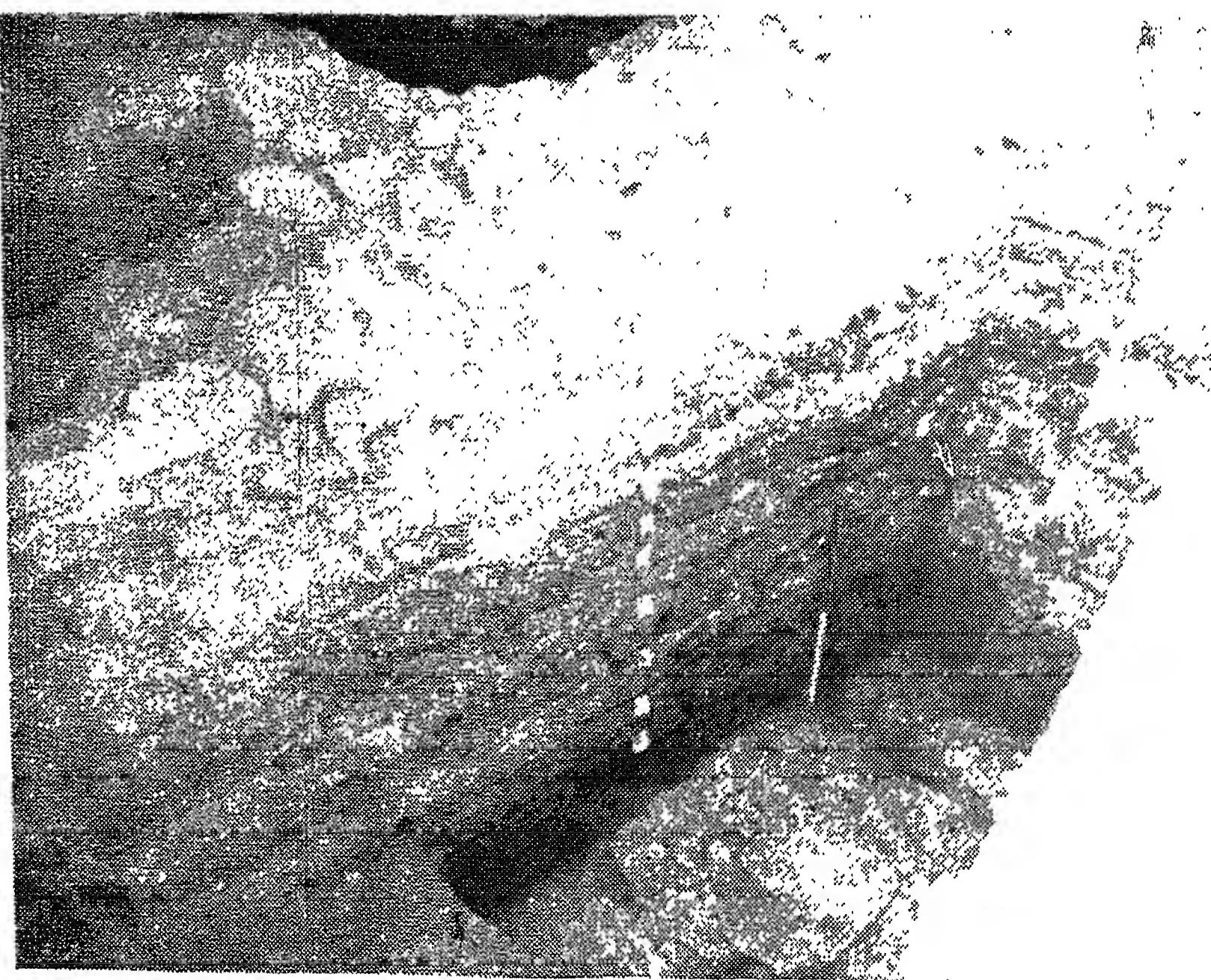


PEDDAMARRUR - Megalith IV
A pit circle with a door slab and a passage chamber towards south



PEDDAMARRUR

Habitation site showing walls and post holes
of the Satavahana period



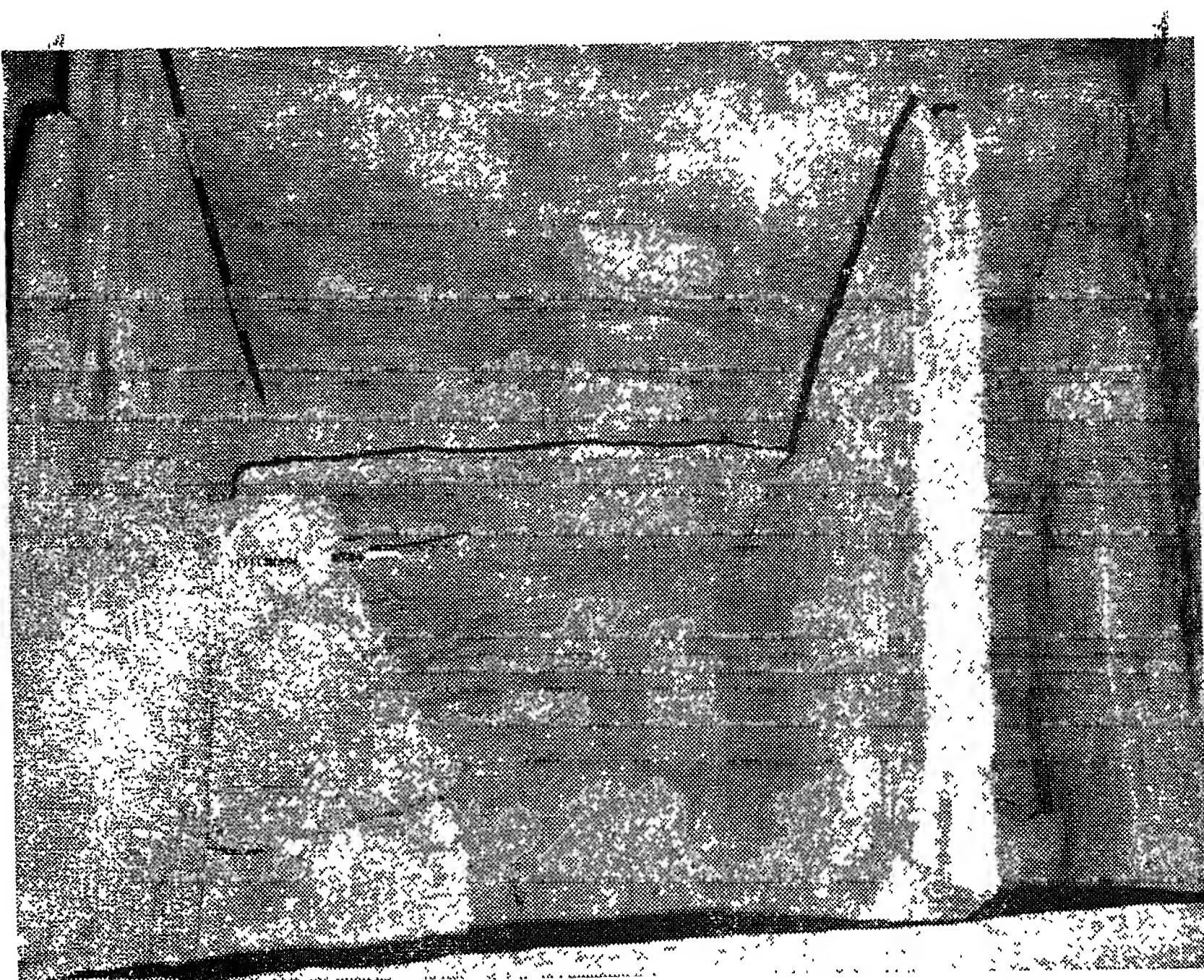
PEDDAMARRUR

A view of section at Peddamarrur
excavation



CHAGATURU

A view of megalithic burial with
an enclosure



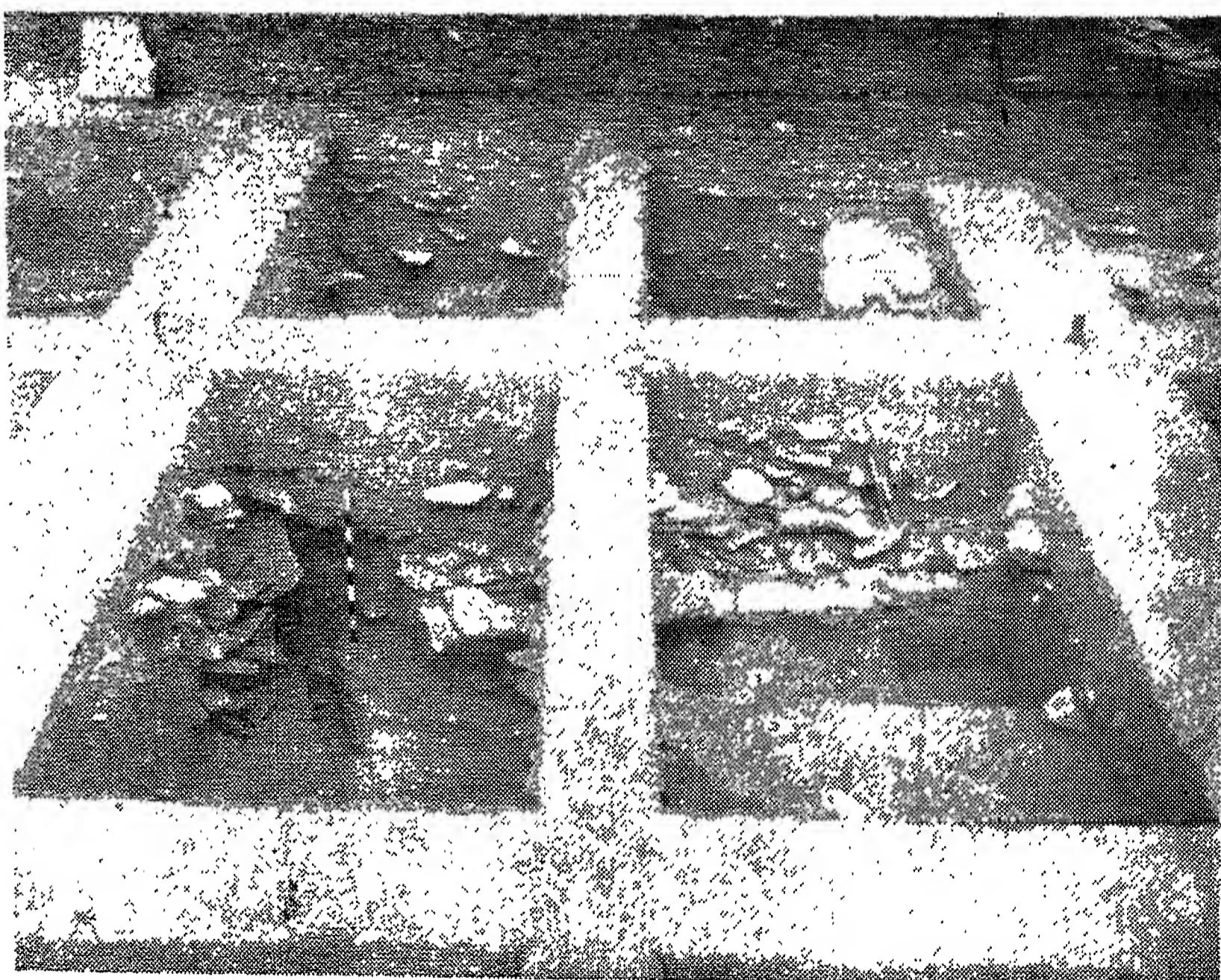
CHAGATURU

Megalithic burial - I at Chagaturu



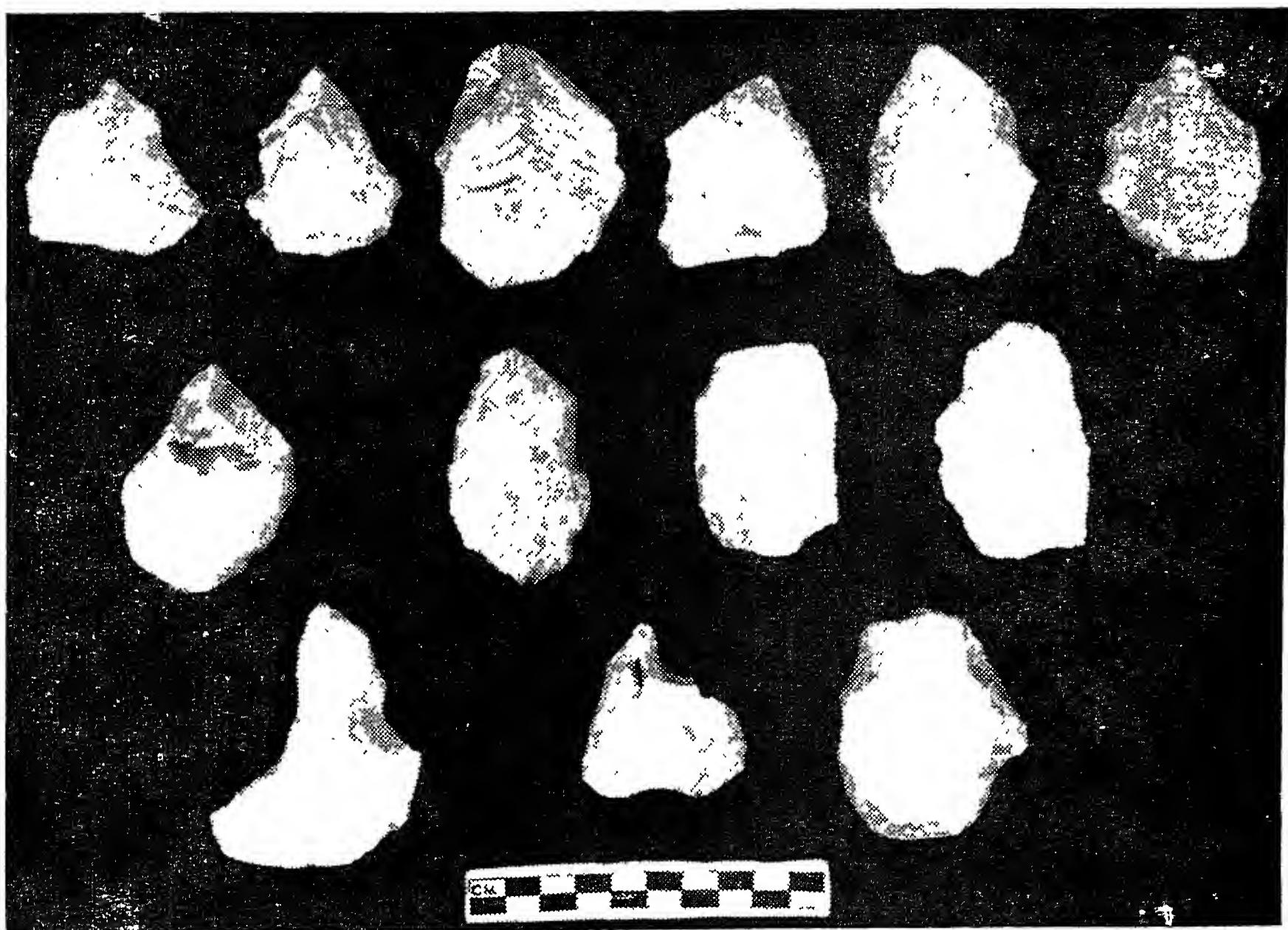
CHAGATURU

Early historical site with rubble walls and floors



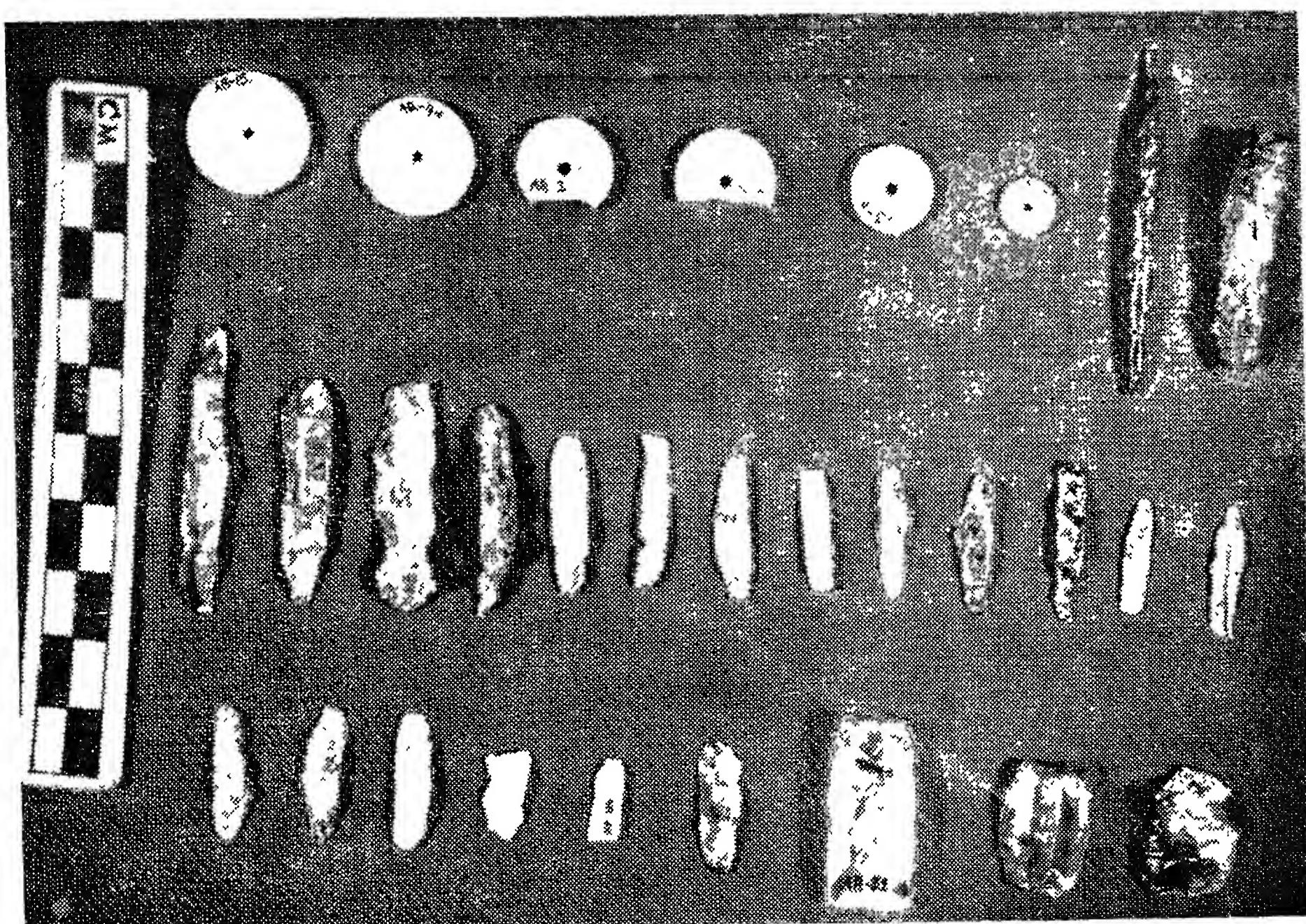
CHAGATURU

A view of excavation at Chagaturu



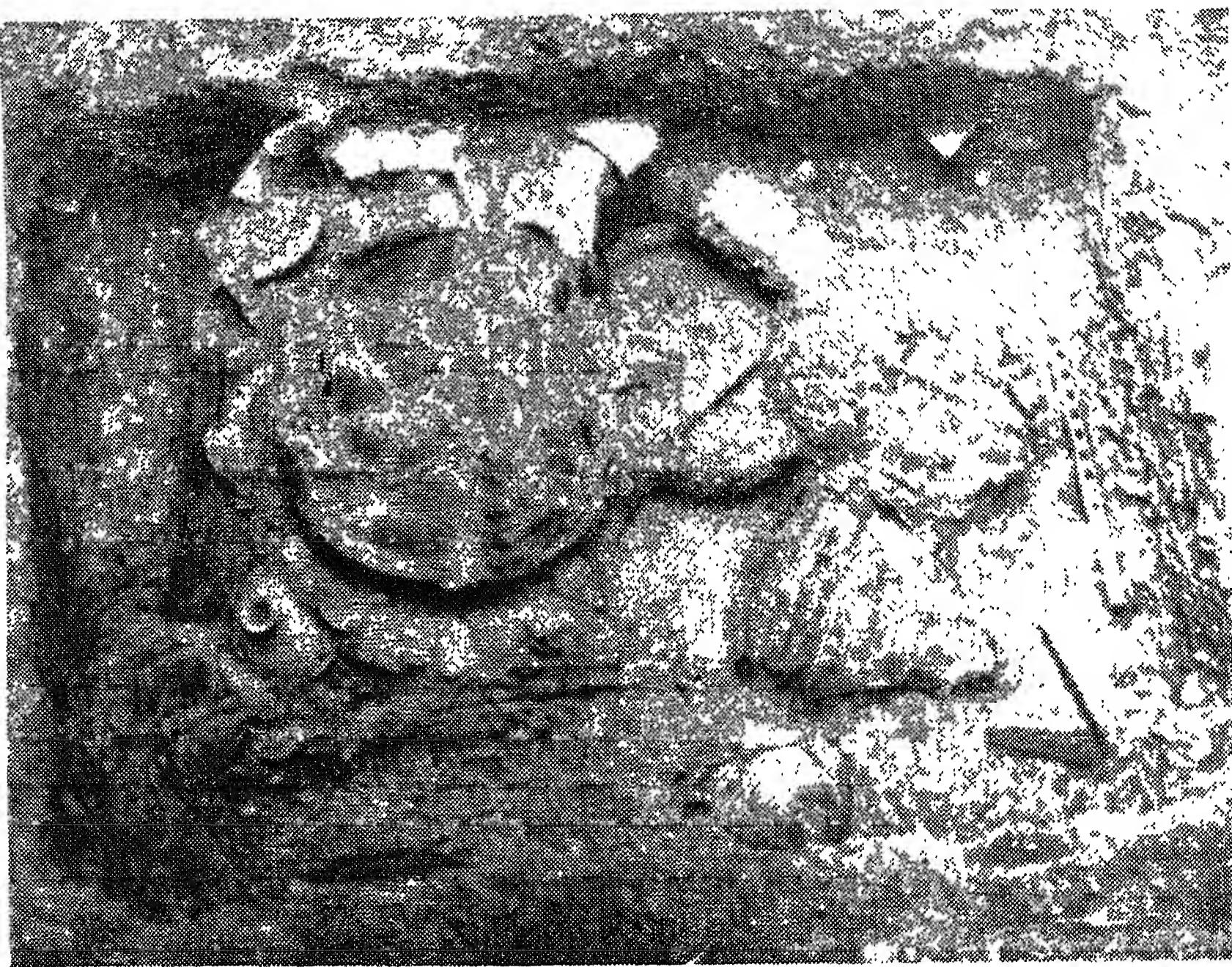
CHAGATURU

Upper paleolithic tools collected from stratified deposits



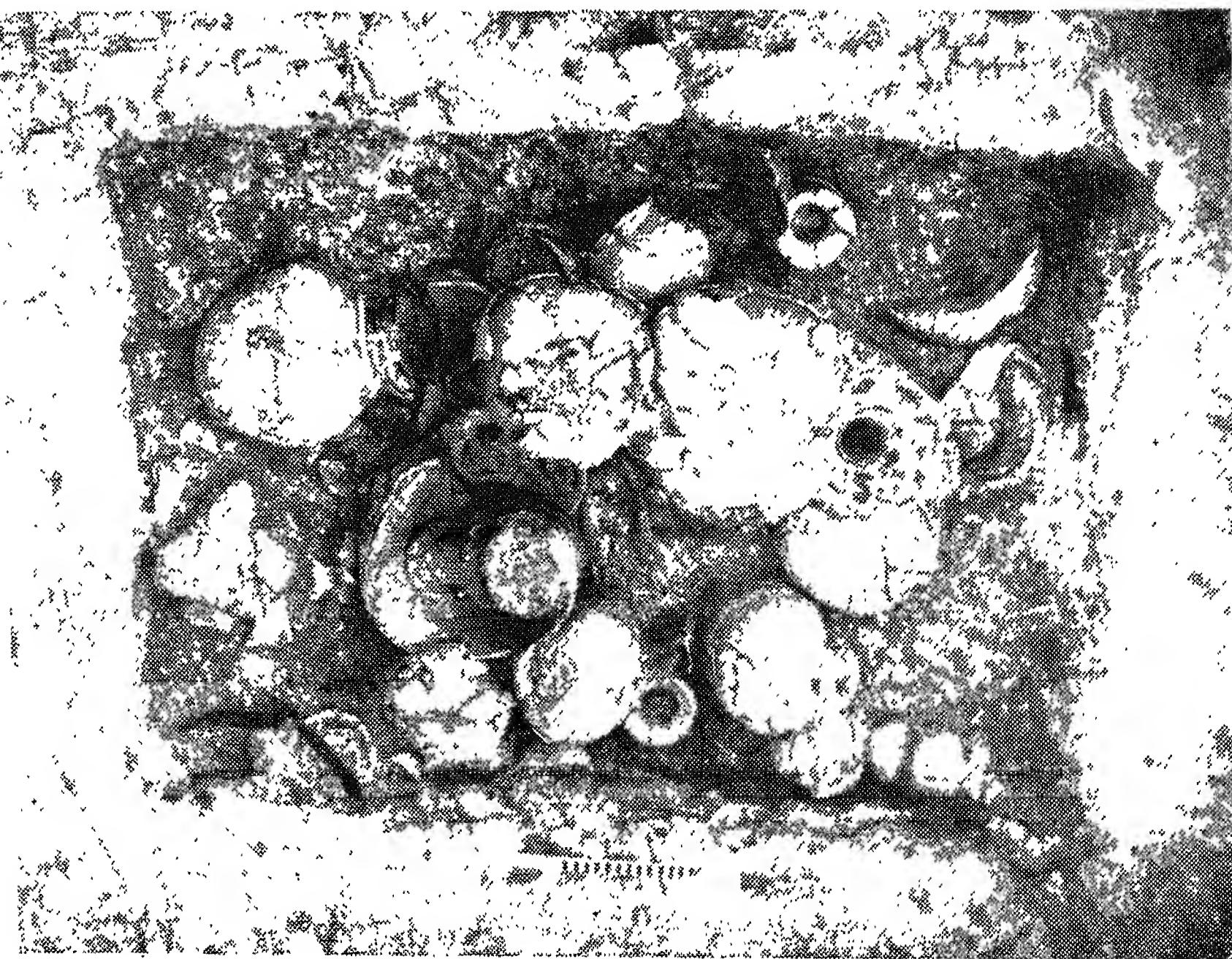
CHAGATURU

Steatite beads and microlithic blades
and fluted cores from the Chalcolithic site



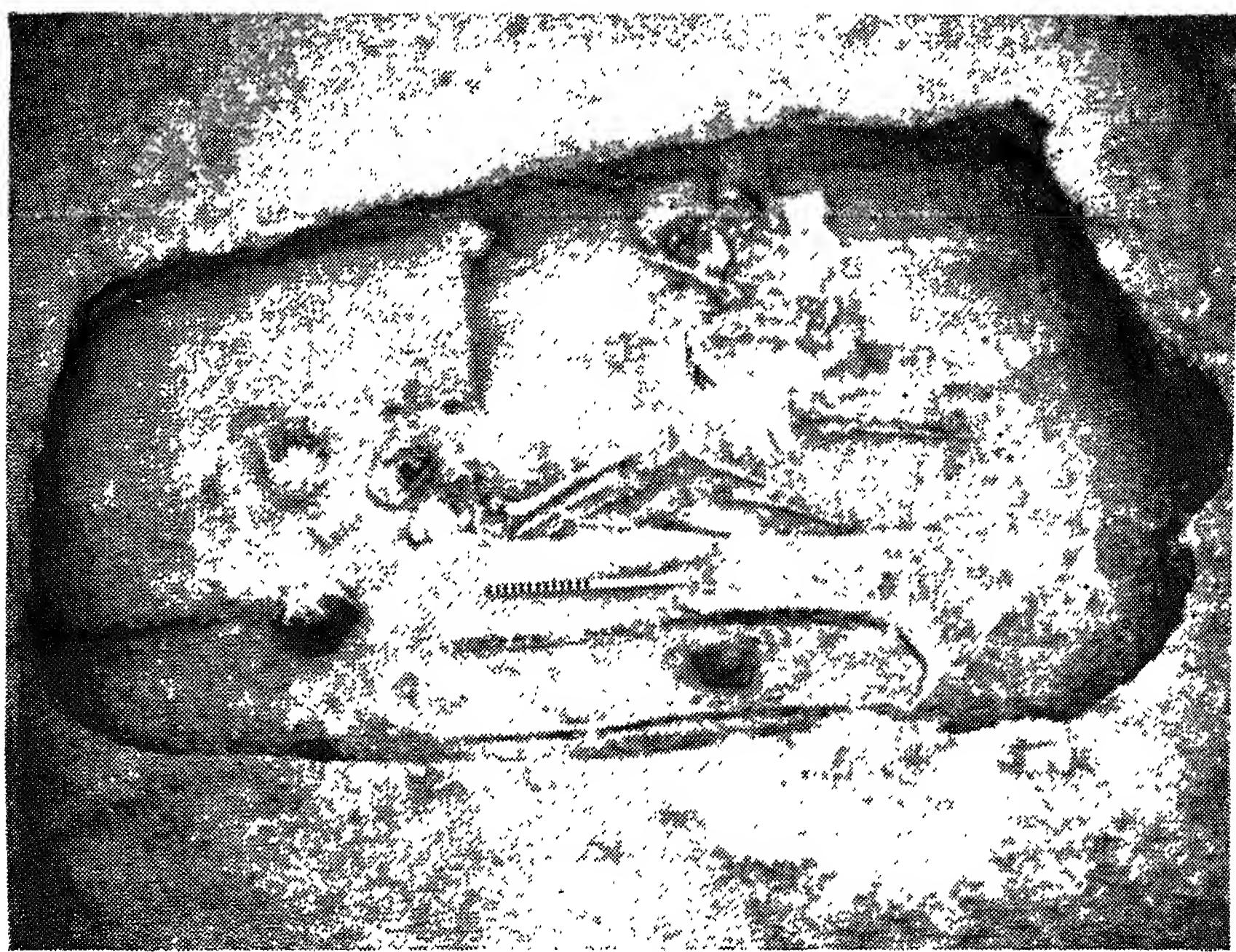
UPPALAPADU
Megalith IX Pit Burial Site I

Pottery and iron
objects with skeletal remains



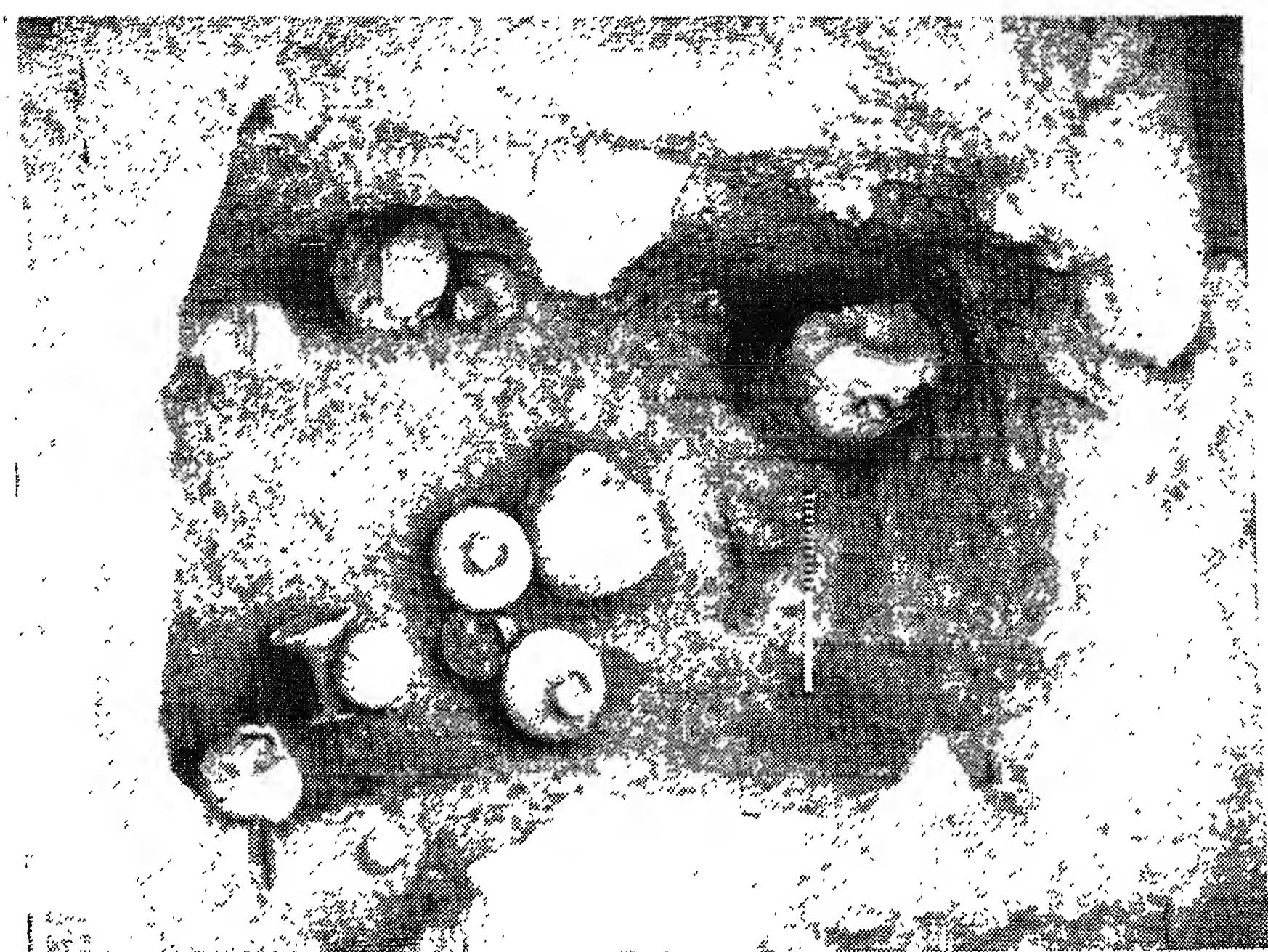
UPPALAPADU
Megalith III Pit Burial Site II

Pottery and antiquities



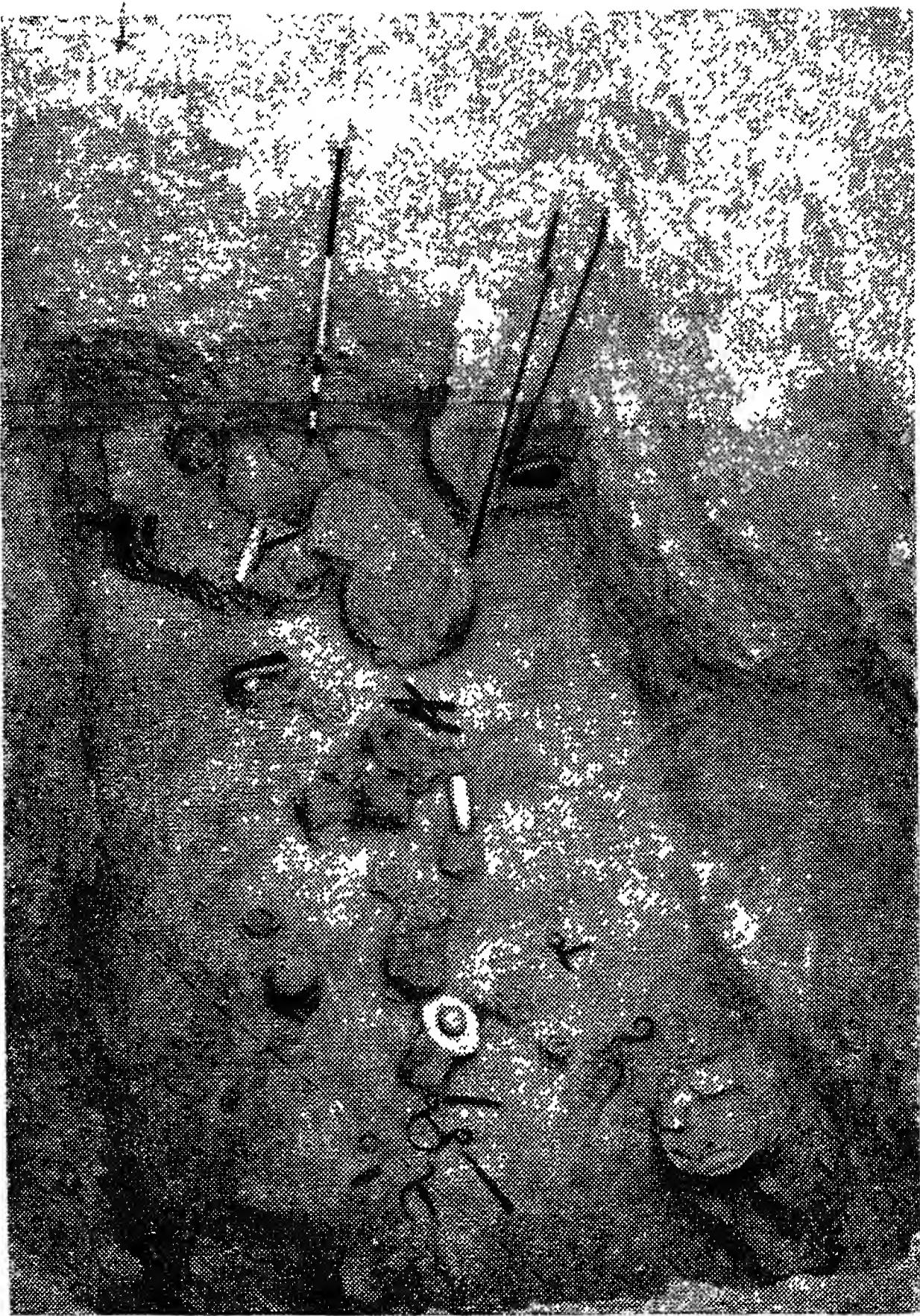
UPPALAPADU
Megalith IV Pit Burial Site II

Three wooden coffins containing
human skeletal remains



UPPALAPADU
Megalith V Pit Burial Site I

Pit containing pottery of black
and red, redware and glassware



UPPALAPADU Megalith VI Pit Burial Site I
Pottery and iron objects like javeline
and stirrups, grindstone and pestles

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Another interesting feature is the occurrence of black ware funnel-shaped lids, sometimes with a knob above the rim and provided with a pointed knob.

Iron objects were scarce but for a small knife in the shape of a sickle. This type is still in use which is used by shepherds for cutting small twigs, etc. The other find was an iron ring of blade with ends bent forward to overlap in the shape of a spiral.

There are two crystal beads one big and the other small. Both are barrel-shaped and hexagonal in cross-section. Similar beads were noticed in Prakash excavations in the Iron Age context.

Chamber - II :

Besides large number of pots, a terracotta sarcophagus was also noticed. It was placed adjacent to the eastern wall. A big fragment of the sarcophagus was lying away near the western wall, possibly it was broken during the later period by the mourners who entered the cist for depositing a second set of funerary offerings. Inside the sarcophagus a few splinters of bones were noticed. The pottery as usual consists of parabolical lids, all black ware dishes and red ware vases. Some of the red ware pots also contained charred bones which included fragments of calcined skull bones.

There were more than 25 pots inside the chamber, which included black and red bowls, coarse red ware vases, a polished redware vase, coarse red dishes, etc. Some of the pots were designed with double rows of punches.

Interestingly there was also a red and black deep bowl. This bowl appears to have been straight eared and the interior of the bowl was coloured black.

In Chambers I and II after removing the contents the shale floor slab was removed. In the middle of the chambers a pit was scooped into the bed rock and a few funerary vases some of them containing fragments were deposited. These included all black ware ring-stands, a red ware pot with an elongated neck and a tapering body, another small black ware pot, black and red ware dish, etc. In order to keep the contents of the pit intact the gaps between the pots were plugged with fine earth. Also, the base of the slab was rammed with fine earth so that the slab would not give pressure to the pit contents.

Chamber - III :

In this Chamber (2.25×0.79 m.), the funerary deposits were noticed at a depth of 1.33 m. and consisted of large number of pots and human bones. Most of them were unidentifiable as they were heavily crushed due to heavy weight of the top filling. Some of the pots were placed over the human bones.

Megalith - II :

Meg-2 lies towards north-east of Meg- 1 and about 30 m. away. This is a cist burial of shale slab erected in an anti-clockwise Swastic pattern, with a port-hole in the south wall leading to a passage chamber. The port-hole is 44 cm. in diameter and exactly carved in the middle of the southern wall slab and slightly above the floor for enabling free access to both the compartments. The passage (1.63×0.90 m.) was built of vertical shale slab. The door slab (57 x 30 cm.) of the port-hole had broken down and found in the middle of the passage chamber.